DEMONOLOGY

POSSESSION, EXORCISM & THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

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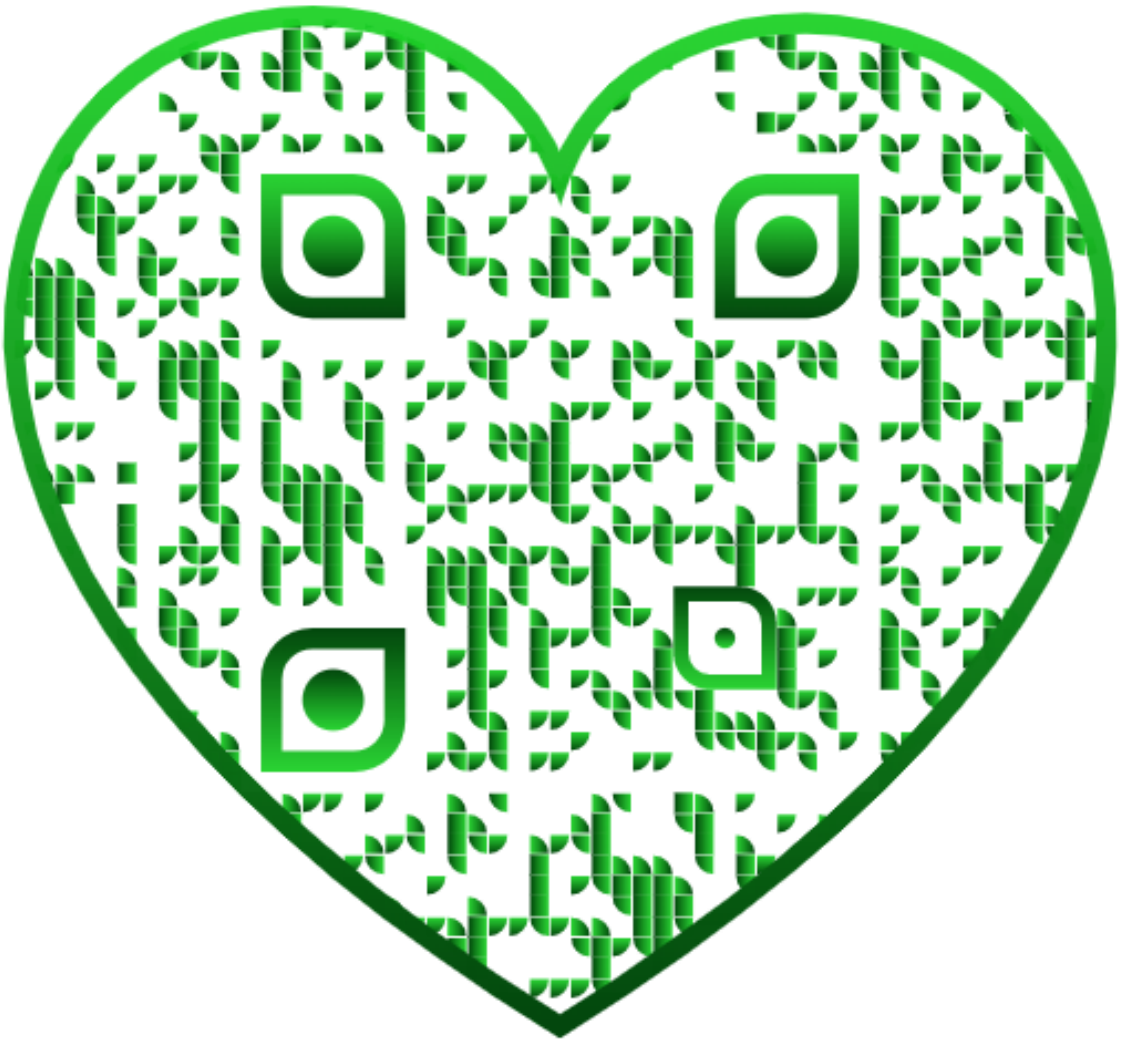

Demonology: Possession, Exorcism & The Kingdom of Darkness

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THE ORGANIZATION OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

CHAPTER 1

THE ENEMY

Christians have always viewed demons as evil and part of the kingdom of satan. Yet those outside of Christianity view demons very differently. Some see them as helpful, friendly, misunderstood, and willing to do the bidding of those who call them if the right sacrifices are made. There are a few that see demons as dangerous and some that view demons as divided into good and evil. Ravenwolf (2009) sees angels as assistants or helpers in conducting magic.

This has caused great theological discussions as to the nature and activities of demons. In fact, what demons actually are has come into question. Some believe that when a person tries to contact the dead they are in reality contacting a demon. In addition, some believe that ghosts are demons as well. Why are we so confused about the nature of demons?

I believe that much of this confusion started with the extra-Biblical writings that have been attributed to Solomon, the son of King David, though he probably didn't write them. Solomon was considered to be wise and powerful as stated in 2 Chronicles 9:22-23…"So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. And all the kings of the earth were seeking the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart, (NAS)."

Many believed that Solomon's wisdom also included the knowledge of how to control demons. For example, Josephus was a Jewish historian that lived around the time of Christ, and he wrote…"God also enabled him (Solomon) to learn that skill which expels demons, which is a science useful and sanative to men. He composed such incantations also by which distempers are alleviated. And he left behind him the manner of using exorcisms, by which they drive away demons, so that they never return; and this method is of great force unto this day," (Antiquities of the Jews 2.5).

In the Testament of Solomon (Conybeare, 1898), it begins with King Solomon building the Temple, and a demon, Ornias, came and stole half the pay and food of a Temple worker. So Solomon noticed that the boy was

getting sick and asked what was happening. The child told him about the demon, so Solomon went to pray and asked God for authority over the demon. God answered by sending the archangel Michael to give Solomon a ring that had power over all the demons.

In the rest of the book, Solomon commands that demons appear before him. When a demon would come forth, Solomon would ask it questions, like what Zodiac sign did it fall under, what power it had, what angel was it subject to, and their origin. After talking to the demon Solomon would order it to help in building the Temple.

Here is the list of demons that Solomon summoned and conversed with. You will see that some of the demons are assigned to a specific function (like deafness), and others appear to travel in groups. Both specific attacks and group possessions are supported in the Scriptures. However, in the book of Solomon, some demons can do good (like heal), and some can cast out other demons, which are not represented in the Scriptures.

- **Ornias**: changes shapes-appears as a beautiful woman to seduce men, visits men in their sleep, can grow wings, and can change into a lion;
- **Beelzeboul**: prince of demons; attacks kings, attacks ministers (priests), incites wars, murder, heresy, envy, murder, sodomy, seeks world destruction;
- **Onoskelis**: female demon that seduces men, strangles men, and perverts their character;
- **Asmodeus**: attack newlyweds, try to keep couple away from each other through stress and pain, also tries to get men to commit adultery through inciting desire and mental illness;
- **Tephras**: destroy homes, set them on fire, mental illness; *heals* fever convulsions;
- **Seven Female Spirits Bound Together**: **Deception, Strife, Klothod-Battle, Jealousy, Power, Error, Goddesses-ensnares with power of Artemis;**
- **Envy**: mental retardation, mutilations, sores, foot disorders;
- **Rabdos**: seize men by the throat and destroy them;
- **Lion-Bearer-Rath**: harm the sick to weaken them; many demons under its power, can cast them out if it wishes;
- **Tribolaios**: blind babies in the womb, make babies deaf and mute, cause

men to fall down, foam at the mouth and grind their teeth much like a convusion;
- **Ephippas**: set fire and cause death;
- **Obizuth**: female demon that kills children during childbirth; body pain, mental illness, deafness, tempting evil, binding the mouth;
- **Pterodrakun**: seduce women to desire perverted sex;
- **Enepsigos**: shape changer;
- **Kunospaston**: lives in the waves, attacks ships, appears as a human to sailors;
- **Lascivious Spirit** (no name): sits by cemeteries, takes on the form of a deceased person to ensnare visitors, or send a demon to possess them;
- **Thirty Six Spirits**: **Ram** (deacon of Zodiac circle), **Ruax**-cause men to not think, **Barsafael**-migraines, **Arotosael**-injure eyes, **Iudal**-deafness, **Sphendonael**-medical attacks, **Sphandor**-attack shoulders, neck, and hands, **Belbel**-distorts hearts and minds, **Kurtael**-bowel pain, **Metathiax**-aches in the reigns, **Katanikotael**-conflict in the home, **Saphathorael**-partisanship, **Bobel**-nervous illness, **Kumeatel**-shivering and torpor, **Roeled**-stomach pain, **Atrax**-fevers, **Ieropael**-convusions, **Buldumech**-cause grudges between spouses, **Naoth**-sits on knees, **Mardero**-fever, **Nefthada**-reigns to ache, dysury, **Akton**-ribs-muscles to ache, **Anatreth**-attack entrails, **Enenuth**-attack hearts and minds, **Pheth**-cause to be consumptive and hemorrhages, **Harpax**-insomnia, **Anoster**-uterine, bladder dysfunction, **Alleborith**-no function given, **Hephesimireth**-lingering disease, **Ichthion**-paralyze muscles, **Agchonion**-lingers around babies and precipice, **Autothith**-conflict, **Phthenoth**-cursing, and **Bianakith**-decay in body, homes, and anything else.
- **Abezithibod**: works on the heart to harden or incite.

In the Key of Solomon (Peterson, 2005), the actual preparations and procedures are described for summoning and conversing with demons. It describes how a magic circle is to be made, how to perform rituals to make the ministers ready to summon the demons, and prayers that should be said to conjure the demons. There are planets that rule the days and the hours and these should be followed, depending on the demons you are summoning, and why you are summoning them.

There are different purposes for summoning demons. For example, if you think a piece of jewelry is lost or stolen you can summon the spirits to go and find out what happened to it and reveal it to the priest. You can summon O Alniras, the prince of invisibility to help make you invisible. You can also perform incantations to make someone fall in love with you.

All of these books, supposedly from Solomon, go directly against the commands of God, as listed in Deuteronomy 18:10-12…"There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord," (NAS).

For the works attributed to Solomon to be true, then the Bible cannot be true. There is no way possible for both to be true at the same time. Yet, those that are involved with witchcraft, necromancy (summoning the dead), séances, and channeling spirits, and those that use divination, point to Solomon as approving of these practices. The Bilbe says no, but Solomon says yes in non-Biblical writings.

To makes things even more confusing, a witch wrote a book encouraging others to be a witch, based on the Bible (Singer, 2006). She claims that witchcraft is based on life being sacred, that love is the law we should live by, and that we should not bring harm to anyone. Here, witchcraft sounds like it is equal to Christianity. Another has written a book and has declared that demons, Jesus, Buddha, angels, spirit guides, and ascended masters can be summoned for guidance, and all are basically on equal footing (Gregg, 2008).

This has caused confusion for many. For example, Deuteronomy 18:10-12 states that mediums are detestable to God; but what if a young girl who lost her father in a car accident and misses him terribly, goes to a medium to help her contact her father? When the medium contacts her dead father, the young girl feels better. Isn't this a good thing? Many believe that if the girl feels better it must be from God.

Some secretly desire for God to approve of contacting the dead. For them it would be nice to contact the dead and have them tell us what to expect and what to do. But, if we did that, we would not need God. So, by forbidding contacting the dead, God can protect us and draw us closer to Him. Since God considers it sin, He is not involved in it. Therefore, God would not

allow the dead or angels to participate in any of these practices. So, these must be demons, or at the least, charlatans using these practices.

In one case, a church referred a young man to me to see in counseling. They were thinking about doing an exorcism and wanted to make sure there were not any mental health problems. This young man practiced divination by looking into a crystal ball, and read runes. He also practiced witchcraft by casting spells on those that made him angry. He had a demon that appeared to him when he summoned him to attack another.

When the young man sat in front of me he started talking to me and gave me a brief history of his life. All of a sudden, when I asked about divination in his history he went silent; his eyes rolled back into his head and he began to laugh (a foul smell came from his mouth). His voice changed into this deep, snarling, angry voice that began to tell me that he knew me and began to tell me about things I had done as a child, which I had revealed to no one (I was from another part of the country and had recently moved to Florida). The demon told me that he had plans for my family and named where they lived if the exorcism was to happen. After the threat the demon laughed again and the young man opened his eyes.

When the man came back I asked him if he knew anything about me or my family history. He stated that he came on the church's recommendation and only went where they sent him and had no idea who I was. When I asked him if he remembered blanking out and saying things about my past he stated that he didn't remember anything and thought that he might have fallen asleep. This demon had entered through witchcraft and divination.

Demons are real and are not on our side. The rest of this book will be used to describe demons, their organization, and power structure from a Christian perspective. With God there is no confusion-if He says something is forbidden, is it wise to find ways around this?

From the beginning, God has encouraged humans to resist sin. For example, when Cain was angry at God for not accepting his offering, God said to him…"Why are you so angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it," (Gen. 4:6-7).

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a perfect example of the backwards thinking of those that oppose the laws of God. AIDS is a fatal disease. It is largely contracted through unprotected sex, homosexual sex (especially anal sex),

and needle sharing. Since AIDS first appeared instead of people realizing the dangers of this fatal disease, and taking precautions to monitor and reevaluate their risky sexual behavior, it is actually getting worse. The World Health Organization estimated in 2009 that there would be 33.3 million people with HIV, there would be 2.6 million new infections, and 1.8 million deaths.

You would think that people would push for more sexual restraint, encourage less risky sexual behavior, and encourage people that if you stop this dangerous sexual behavior the disease can be contained and eventually stopped through appropriate behaviors (the same could be said of sexually transmitted diseases-they are getting worse and there is less emphasis on sexual restraint). Instead, we see the media and Hollywood glorifying and encouraging more dangerous sexual behavior.

You can ignore the laws of God and actively work against them, but that doesn't mean that there are no consequences for your actions. It is best to take God at His Word and if He says don't get involved with these spiritual practices (necromancy, divination, and so on) then you can be assured that demons are involved and He is trying to protect you from their influences.

THE ORIGIN OF SATAN

Satan is a created being. Ezekiel 28:15 states…"You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you." As a created being he is less powerful than God, as God is the only Eternal One, who is self-existent. Satan had a beginning, a point in time, in which he was created by God; but satan is not a god. Therefore, satan is an inferior being in all ways to the majesty of God. Satan is not all- powerful, he is not all-knowing, and is not all-seeing, as God is. He is limited in his power, yet he is still very powerful. Ultimately, God will cast him into chains for a thousand years, let him loose to deceive the nations one last time, and he will be thrown into the lake of fire by the power of God (Rev.20:1-3; 10). In the end, satan loses everything and becomes a prisoner in torment forever, because Jesus is Lord over all His creation.

Satan was considered the most beautiful and powerful of all angels. He was originally the head of praise and worship in heaven as his body was created with musical instruments within himself…."Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz,

and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets (*tambourines*) and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou was created," (KJV; Ezekiel 28:13; italics mine).

He was a great angel, created to be beautiful (Ezekiel 28:12) as he was covered with every precious stone. He was called…"the anointed cherub who covers," or also called the "guardian cherub," (Ezekiel 28:14). Satan was in the very throne room of God, and covered the throne with his beauty and his praise. The cherubim had a special place in the throne room of God. It says in Psalm 99 that God sits enthroned between the cherubim (verse 1). Psalm 18 states that God travels on the wings of the cherubim (verse 10). Also, the ark of the covenant had two cherubim facing each other on the cover, and God was said to be enthroned there between the cherubim (I Sam.4:4). So, for satan to be called the anointed cherub who covers, or the guardian cherub, he must have had a position very close to God and he must be immensely powerful.

Then, sin was found in him and he was expelled from heaven (Ezekiel 28:16). Some have believed that satan was in charge of worship in the universe, as Ezekiel 28:18 states…"By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated *your sanctuaries*," (emphasis mine). He was created to be close to God, to cover the throne, to praise Him, and to instruct others on how to praise God. But, he wanted the praise to be for himself. The sin was pride because satan fell in love with his beauty and thought he was better than God and wanted to be worshipped as God…."Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your splendor," (Ezekiel 28:17). We see in the many "I will" statements that satan declared his own plans as separate from God and wanted his authority and plans to be elevated above God…"I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High," (Isaiah 14:13-14). He wanted to be above all, even above God. Sin originated here in satan.

In satan sin began, and from him sin has spread throughout the universe. Satan was created with free-will and he made a decision to rebel. God let satan make the choice. Love cannot be genuine unless it is freely given. God gave satan the freedom to love, and he chose to love himself. He seduced angels away from God and has perverted all of humankind. Sin originated in

him and it has become the disease of this world…"He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning," (1 John 3:8).

But God did not tolerate this. He cast satan from heaven and he was thrown to the earth…"So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones…So I threw you to the earth," (Ezekiel 28:16-17). Satan still has influence on this earth and this is where he is trying to establish his kingdom. He is called the "prince of this world" (John 12:31) and the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph.2:2).

Scholars are divided on where satan was before his fall. Some see satan as dwelling on earth, in Eden, as God had given it to him to rule over…"You were in Eden, the garden of God," (Ezekiel 28:13). They point to the fact that satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world as he really is the ruler still over this earth (Luke 4:5-7). He is called the "prince of this world," by Jesus in John 12:31. They believe that Eden was covered with precious stones and that his palace was located among these beautiful stones (Ezekiel 28:13). While satan was ruling on earth, he occasionally went into heaven to conduct worship services. He one day desired this worship for himself and when he went into heaven he started to battle with God to be the one who is worshipped. A third of the angels went with him to dethrone God, as these angels served under satan on earth. God cast them out of heaven permanently, and they were judged irrevocably.

The other side sees satan as in heaven as a continuous guardian cherub. His job was to stay with God, conduct worship over Him, and move with Him. The cherubim traveled with God as stated in the great vision of Ezekiel, "When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the living creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose...Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was what looked like an expanse, sparkling like ice, and awesome. Under the expanse their wings were stretched out one toward the other, and each had two wings covering its body…Then there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads as they stood with lowered wings. Above the expanse over their heads was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above the throne was a figure like that of a man… Then the cherubim rose upward. These are the living creatures I had seen by the Kebar River," (1:19; 22-23; 25-26; 10:15).

We do not know for sure. However, we can make some sense of both

views. We can believe that satan did live in heaven with God and was given charge of the earth. He may have had both duties: conduct praise and govern the earth. He was and is a great being capable of both. How he fulfilled his duties we are not sure. As there is praise 24 hours a day in heaven he must have been there much of the time. He was also the guardian cherub. His duty was to cover or guard. The earth may have been his sanctuary where he taught others to praise, and was called upon to lead at times in heaven, while he supervised the praise of other angels. It is impossible to be definite. All we can say is that satan was in heaven as a covering angel, he did walk in Eden before Adam and Eve were there, he did ascend to heaven to overcome God, and he was cast down from heaven to the earth after his fall.

However, he did not leave alone. He took a third of the angels with him as stated in Revelation 12:4…"His (the red dragon) tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth." They are actually called "*his angels"* in Rev.12:7 as these angels no longer belong to God and His kingdom. These are the demons that we battle now. One has to wonder why these angels rebelled against Almighty God, in the perfection of heaven to follow an inferior, created being such as satan. He must be very powerful and must have deceived even the angelic hosts to get so many to follow him. He is inferior to God in every way; yet, he must be so powerful that even heavenly angels followed him believing he could overcome God.

Yet, the demons are afraid of satan and are miserable because they backed a loser and must now face eternity in hell. They fear satan's power, but they hate him for not being able to back up his arrogant promises to overthrow God. There is no love between demons and no love from demons to satan; they all hate each other. They can work together and do so out of fear of powerful demons, and ultimately satan. However, there is one thing they can agree on-they all hate anyone that can inherit heaven and enjoy what they have lost. The demons must still believe that satan can win in the end as Jesus lets satan loose one more time at the end of the millennium, and satan leads another rebellion and tries to overcome God with his army again and loses again. It is an army of hatred and false hope.

SATAN'S LIMITATIONS

Satan does have limitations. First, he cannot know all things as he definitely

underestimated God's response to his sin by casting him out of heaven. Satan did not comprehend the impossibility of his ever being able to return to heaven and that his judgment would be so horrible. One can only speculate on what he knew, but the question begs to be asked: would he have rebelled if he could have foreseen his future? Maybe. Satan may be so full of hatred for God that he would rather be his own master in horrible circumstances than a servant to anyone.

Once satan made his decision to sin he could not control God's response. Maybe he thought he was more powerful than God and that he could dethrone Him. He clearly stated…"I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly…I will make myself like the Most High," (Isaiah 14:13-14). This reveals some expectation of succeeding in becoming the ruler of heaven. This proves that satan cannot be all-knowing, as he underestimated God's power, underestimated God's response, and underestimated the cost.

We don't know if satan tried to repent or was capable of repenting. In the Bible, there are angels that are in chains right now because of their sins and it appears that there was an immediate, irrevocable judgment by God. Jude 6 states…"And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home-these He has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day." It is pure speculation but God may have blessed these angels (and satan) by making them sinless at first, full of great power, and by giving them unlimited access to His Presence. They were created as supernatural beings that were powerful and blessed. They were created to dwell in heaven and had no hardships. However, as they were loved and created by God, to rebel against all that they had been given must have left God with little else to do but judge them. They were given all so they lost all. We can never know for sure what happened and why God dealt with them with such finality. Nevertheless, for them there are no second chances.

The second great limitation of satan is that he is forever under God and cannot do anything without His permission. In Job chapter one, satan wants to attack Job but God places limits on him…"The Lord said to satan, 'Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life," (verse 6). Satan is forever under God in power and authority. He cannot stop or foil the plans of God. God will accomplish His purposes and none can succeed against Him.

Finally, satan is limited because he does not understand the purposes of God. Do you think he would have tried to kill Jesus through others if he could have foreseen our salvation? Certainly not. He did not understand God's plan for salvation and actually helped in bringing God's purposes to fruit. The agony he must have felt when he realized what he had done!

Also, as spoken of before, satan may not have understood how God was going to respond to his rebellion. Satan does not know all things and he certainly is going to end up in the worst shape of all creatures in the universe in the lake of fire. He obviously is not perfect in knowledge as his future is one of eternal torment and I do not believe that in heaven, he believed his end would be this way when he tried to ascend above God.

SATAN IS POWERFUL

Even though satan is not a god, he is still a powerful foe. He is a supernatural being, a powerful angel, possibly the highest angel, and he is deadly in his wrath. He has the ability to deceive the nations (Rev.20:7-8), he has the power to possess and manipulate people (see Judas, John 13:27), he can cause physical disease and illness (as in Job), and he can manipulate the weather and murder people (Job 1:18-20). In the last days satan will work through the antichrist to work the miraculous as indicated by 2 Thess. 2:9…"The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs, and wonders."

The very fact that angels have battles with satan and his army and cause them considerable trouble reveals the seriousness of their power. In Daniel 10:13, 20-21, an angel (or some scholars believe it was Jesus) appears to Daniel. He tells Daniel that He was dispatched to him but was detained by the demonic powers in a spiritual battle over Persia, in which the archangel Michael came to help…"But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia…Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael)."

In addition, other angels know his power and do not treat him lightly. In the book of Jude, Jude describes a certain group of corrupt people who had infiltrated the church. He stated that one of their sins was to slander celestial

beings. However, he describes the archangel Michael, when dealing with satan, as understanding who he was dealing with and did not approach him flippantly or slanderously in Jude 9…"But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" The angels understand his power as they knew his original position with God. Many, if not all of them, may have served under him or saw his highlighted position with God. They do not test his strength without God's power or treat him as a joke, and we should learn from this as well.

This is not to say that we are to be afraid of satan. When we are saved Jesus comes to live in our hearts and 1 John 4:4 states…"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." With Christ in us we have the greatest power of the universe to aid us in conquering the enemy…"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe," (Eph.1:18-19). We are nothing without Christ. If satan could, he would destroy us in a minute. But he cannot unless he has permission from God, and since God protects us, satan cannot have us.

THE WORK OF SATAN

The primary work of satan and his kingdom is to oppose God's kingdom and keep as many people from entering heaven as possible. He hates God and humans and there are reasons for this. First, he is forever kicked out of heaven and can never dwell there again. He can however, visit temporarily to accuse and have discourse with God. God does allow satan to approach Him on occasion (see Job chapter 1 as an example), but he cannot live there. Now, he hates all who dwell in the light as he has been cast into darkness. All humans have the opportunity to inherit what satan can never have: eternity in the peace of God.

Satan was the first to be rejected. Therefore he wants everyone to experience what he experienced. He lost everything. Now, he is jealous of all who can experience true love and true joy. He is so full of hatred that he cannot experience true love and cannot be happy for anyone. His only delight (not delight in our sense, but elation in the misery of others) is to pull

down into hell with him as many people as possible. It is like a man who loses his job and hates it while those still at the job are successful. When the business goes bad, he is happy. When people say they are unhappy there, he rejoices and when the company does well he is bitter. This man can only be happy when his former business fails.

On our side, angels are sent by God to help us here on earth…"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14). Demons are fallen angels and their original assignment was to serve us. Now, the very ones sent to serve us are now our enemies. The fallen angels now serve their master, satan, and his goal is our destruction. God is sending angels to help us and demons are sent by satan to thwart us in every way.

What this reveals, fortunately or unfortunately, is that the entire spirit-world is watching us and wants us on their side. Jesus did not come to die for the planets, or for animals, or for plants, He came and died for us…"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life," (John 3:16). God gave the best He had, His Son Jesus, for us; we are that important to Him. However, satan hates this love and opposes it at all costs.

This is part of what this book is about. We have an enemy that is obsessed with our downfall. He has many tactics and schemes for our demise. But, there are many preachers that believe that satan has no influence in our lives and many liberal theologians deny that satan even exists. On the other hand, there are many that are obsessed with demons and spiritual warfare and never see good anywhere and never experience the Presence of God. The Barna research group states that 60% of Christians believe that satan is not a real created being. They only view him as a symbol of evil. About 29% either don't believe in hell, or are unsure about it. The statistics reveal that we are undereducated and unaware of the reality of evil.

CHAPTER 2
THE NAMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ENEMY

The Bible is very clear that we are to understand the tactics of the devil and not stick our heads in the sand and act as if he doesn't matter…"And what I have forgiven-if there was anything to forgive-I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes," (2 Cor.2:10-11). We are also commanded to be aware of satan's activities for our own protection…"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour," (1 Peter 5:8).

This is very important. The enemy is constantly on the move. He is roaming about the earth looking for victims. In the book of Job, satan goes before God and when God asks him where he came from, satan replies…"From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it," (Job 1:7). Satan is restless and cannot sit still. He knows that he only has a limited time before his destruction and must work as quickly as possible. God can be everywhere at once, as He is omnipresent…"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your Presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast," (Psalm 139:7-10). But, satan is not omnipresent. He must roam everywhere continuously because he cannot be everywhere at once.

Imagine the anxiety he must face. He is consumed by hatred, he wants to harm as many as possible, but he knows that his time is short and is doomed to destruction. So, he must work frantically to accomplish his evil, yet he is limited in his abilities. He is a restless, angry, anxiety-ridden foe. To help in understanding our foe, a brief description of his names and titles will be covered. These will give insight into his nature, his character, and his abilities, to better understand and be able fight against our enemy.

SATAN

The enemy is never described in positive terms after his sin. In heaven, before his sin, his name was Lucifer, which means "light-bringer." Isaiah 14:12 states… "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!" However, after the fall, his name is never associated with good. The first name to be covered is satan.

The name satan means adversary or the one who opposes us. Satan is not on God's side and he is not on our side. He opposes us at every moment of our lives. He is the enemy of God, he is the enemy of righteousness, and he is our enemy, as stated in 1 Peter 5:8…"Your *enemy* the devil prowls around like a roaring lion," (italics mine). He is not an innocent bystander and he does not stand and watch the history of the world unfold. He is actively working against the kingdom of God at all times, while he is still free to roam. His job is to thwart, obstruct, and come against anything that God and His people are trying to accomplish. He opposes salvation, he opposes healing, and he opposes happiness.

He is the enemy of God because he wants to be worshipped. He was created to worship God, but now he wants the worship for himself. He seeks worship now by enticing humans to sin and to create idols. Idol worship is believing in and serving false gods. For example, 1 Cor.10:20 states…"No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons." An idol can also be anything that you spend more time with than God. An idol can be sex, money, lust for power, lust for status, sports, hobbies and so on. For example, Col.3:5 states…"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry."

Serving a false god is worshipping a demon (which is a servant of satan), and making anything an idol is indirectly worshipping or serving satan because you give more time, attention, emotion, and energy to it than you give to God. This is where satan wants us: serving his desires more than we serve God. This is the way he can steal worship from God, which was his original intention in heaven before his fall.

THE DEVIL

The next word used to describe the enemy is devil. The word devil means false accuser or slanderer. His tactics are to slander us in every way possible. He tries to destroy relationships by slandering or falsely accusing one to another, he tries to destroy individuals by reminding them of their past sins, and he tries to accuse us before God to get God to judge us or turn against us.

For example, in the book of Zechariah, the prophet receives a vision set in heaven…"Then He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord and satan standing at his right side to accuse him," (Zech.3:1). When we sin, or go against the will of God, satan rushes before God to accuse us of what we have done. He loves to play both sides of the fence. He tempts us and entices us to sin, and then when we fall, he seeks our punishment from God.

Satan wants everyone to experience the fall as he did. He wants all to be banished to torment with him. He will bring any accusation, real or unreal, any bad word, any sin or misdeed before God to try to motivate God to judge us. It pains him to see grace as he cannot ever experience it. He stands before God and states "See what they did? They are disobedient, miserable, and will not be faithful. Judge them like you did me and be done with them. They deserve it." By virtue of his name being "slanderer" it must convey his obsession with this activity.

Satan cannot see all things in our future and cannot completely understand our hearts. He is limited in his abilities. Fortunately, God knows all and can judge perfectly, and He is not impulsive or out of control in His decisions. He sees us, He knows our weaknesses, and He loves us. He knows how to help us and He does forgive us. Satan cannot understand this love nor does he understand the mind of God. Satan hates God because God is love and satan does not understand love because he can no longer experience it. John 1:5 states…"The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."

False accusations and slander also mean that he seeks to get others to believe that we have done wrong, but we are in fact innocent. For example, he loves to get in marriages and falsely accuse one spouse to another. A man may come home late on several nights, not answer his phone on occasion, and may be tired from work and not be interested in romantic intimacy on a few days. Satan will see this and begin to whisper to the man's wife, "he

must be having an affair, he doesn't love you anymore." If he denies it, satan will come in and whisper, "he is lying, he is going to divorce you and take everything." She continues to question her husband and jealousy and fear set in. He then becomes mad because she doesn't trust him, and they begin to fight and satan is laughing the entire time. He seeks to falsely accuse the man to destroy their marriage.

His greatest accusations are his attempt to get us to believe that God does not love as anymore because our current sins and our past sins are too great. He accuses us to ourselves because he knows that if we can believe that we are out of the grace of God, we may give up and leave the faith. His mind is twisted and he loves to twist the truth to destroy us. He has been studying humans for a long time and knows our weaknesses and propensities to sin. He knows that we will sin. So, he waits to tempt us in our weak area and then accuses us relentlessly until we give up on ourselves. This is a key strategy of his: if we can give up or believe that God has given up on us, then we will stop being a danger to him.

THE EVIL ONE

In 1 John 5:19 satan is called "the evil one." As God is holy (Isaiah 6:3), satan is evil. There is no goodness and no kindness in him. All evil comes from him and he authors all the misery of the world. As the evil one he is the ultimate sinner. First John 3:8 states…"He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because he has been sinning from the beginning." He cannot stop sinning. If he does something that appears good it is only to trap someone into doing evil.

For example, in counseling I had a client who would have a man come into her bedroom at night and tell her how to handle her problems and then disappear. He told her many good things and helped her know how to handle the future. This was not an angel; it was an evil spirit. But why would an evil spirit do good? In order to trap her. He gained her trust by helping her and then she gradually went to him for everything. She stopped praying and stopped talking to God. By the time she saw me in counseling she was under this evil spirit's spell. She felt lost if it did not show up, she constantly looked for him, and would follow any advice it gave. The evil spirit started out as helpful, but it took over her entire life with evil.

His realm is evil, as his angels or army are called wicked (spiritual

wickedness in high places, Eph. 6:12), rulers of darkness of this world (Eph.6:12), and unclean spirits (KJV) or evil spirits (NIV), as in Mark 1:23. His kingdom is associated with darkness as well as his activities (Luke 22:53). There is not one mention of any good in him or his kingdom in the Scriptures. He is evil, his kingdom is evil, and his servants are evil.

THE TEMPTER

In First Thessalonians 3:5, satan is called the tempter, "I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless." To tempt someone is to entice someone to do something wrong or immoral by promising them something. It is to be seductive, alluring, or to be inviting. It is to place something seductive in front of someone to get them to respond the way you want. For example, satan tried to tempt Jesus by trying to get Jesus to bow to him by offering Him all the kingdoms of this world…"'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'"

Satan appeared in Genesis to tempt Adam and Eve to sin by eating the forbidden fruit (Gen.3:1-7). First, he plants doubt by getting Adam to question the command of God…."Did God really say, 'you must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" This is a very seductive approach. He did not tell them to eat the fruit or to directly ignore God. To be that abrasive so quickly would have turned Eve away from the sin. Satan subtly and lightly begins to tear down the command of God by placing seeds of doubt.

Second, he lies and states that they don't know the real truth. He claimed that if they eat of the fruit it won't be bad, it will be good. Satan makes sin look attractive, as if there is a benefit to eating the fruit. He stated that when they eat the fruit they will be like God in verse four…"'You will not surely die,' the serpent said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'" Finally, Eve sinned when…"the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it," (Gen.3:6).

So the process starts where satan uses his mind tricks to entice or seduce, he then attempts to make sin look attractive, and gets the person to desire the sin. Once the evil desire is birthed, the person succumbs to it. James 1:14-15 states the process succinctly, "But each one is tempted when, by his own evil

desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has been conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

God cannot be tempted by evil but humans can. We have a sinful nature inside of us and satan knows that we are weak. Satan's temptations work because he knows we have sinful desires and want to gratify them. Satan studies our weaknesses and sets the trap based on our own evil propensities. We have sinful desires and satan knows how to fan them into flame. Look at generational sins that pass down family lines such as alcoholism or sexual perversion. It appears that many sins are passed down generation after generation as there is a weakness for these sins in the family line. If the great grandfather, the grandfather, and the father are alcoholics, then satan sees the son and knows where his potential weakness lies and seeks to bring alcohol into his life to perpetuate the sin. This is the same medically as well. If you see a heart specialist, one of the first questions they ask is if there is a history of heart conditions in the family, as heart problems do travel down family lines.

He sets temptations in our way to draw us away from holiness, and to get us to give in to our sinful desires. He has no compassion; to the man struggling with sexual desires he sends a woman who attracts him, and to the recovering alcoholic he finds someone to offer him a drink. Temptation cannot work unless there is something inside to tempt. He loves to tempt to get us out of the will of God. He hates our position with God and uses temptation to pull us into his will. His greatest achievement is to tempt us continually until we sin, then become trapped in a sin to the point where we completely turn from God. His success is that we die without God and face the judgment in hell that he faces.

He tried to overpower God in heaven to sit on the throne of heaven and receive the worship of the angelic hosts. But he lost and he did not obtain the image or likeness of God. He now goes after humans, made in the image of God, to try to damage us as much as possible out of envy and rage. He could not dominate God so he tries to dominate the ones made in His image. He cannot bring God down but he can try to bring down His creation. Temptation is his primary means to accomplish this.

MURDERER

In John 8:44, Jesus describes satan as a murderer…"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him." Being a murderer from the beginning can have two possible meanings. First, it can refer to satan's involvement in the murder of Abel by Cain. Truly, this was the beginning or first family, and the murder of Abel was at the literal beginning of the human race.

Second, it may refer to satan's hatred or malice, which was with him in the beginning. First John 3:15 states…"Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him." In other words, satan is so full of hatred that he is called a murderer by Jesus. There is no question that satan is directly behind the sin of murder, but he is also a being that has an extraordinary amount of violence and hatred within himself.

There are several instances that show the level of violence that is within satan. First, he not only has hatred toward the nations, he has hatred for the individual. Considering all of the kings and kingdoms of this world and all the spiritual warfare in the heavenlies, satan still spent energy to try and destroy one individual, named Job. In the grand scheme of things Job must have been a small detail. However, if satan has an opportunity to destroy, he will take it. Second, satan did everything possible to destroy Job. God set limits upon satan, but he went as far as his limits could go. He had Sabeans carry off Job's oxen and donkeys, and kill some of his servants. He had fire fall from the sky, killing Job's sheep and more of his servants. Satan also prompted Chaldeans to carry off Job's cattle, kill even more servants, and then satan killed all of Job's children (Job 1:12-19).

However, this still was not enough. When satan presented himself before God again, God asked him to considered Job's response to the calamity. Satan's response, (Job 2:5) was…"'Skin for skin!' Satan replied. 'A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." When God gave him permission to act again, satan had no problem in producing more calamity by afflicting Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head (Job 2:7-8). Job had done nothing to satan. Yet, when given the chance, satan unleashed his fury against Job, and this was no minor affliction. There have been many diseases suggested from leprosy to elephantiasis, but all we have are the horrible symptoms: open sores (2:7-8), sleeplessness (7:4) maggots or worms in sores, skin ulcers (7:5), depression

(7:15), bad breath (19:17), emaciation (19:20), fever and chills (21:6; 30:30), and extreme body pain (30:17). Satan hated Job enough to show no pity, but when God said he could not take Job's life, in his hatred, he gave Job the worst affliction possible.

We also see the wrath of satan in relation to Peter. In Luke 2:31, Jesus said…"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat." To sift in the Greek means to pull apart or separate. Satan hated Peter so much that was literally asking to tear Peter apart. To bring Peter down emotionally or spiritually was not enough, satan wanted Peter's life.

The enemy's wrath must be immense due to the torment he feels when pondering his future. Satan must be consumed with the thought of his eternal torment. How would you feel if you knew you were headed for eternity in the most excruciating pain possible, with never a chance for change? There are two possibilities. One is to repent and beg for God's mercy. Satan cannot and will not do this. The other is to get mad at the One doing the discipline and try and harm that One as much as possible. This is not unlike a rebellious person who refuses to admit she is wrong when confronted with a sin, and then turns and lashes out at you when you try to discipline her. You become the target of her abuse, not because you are wrong, but because she cannot admit she is wrong. It is much easier to blame the one administering the discipline as cruel, unfair, and unloving, than to accept responsibility for your actions.

Finally, we know that satan's hatred and violence must be great because of the hatred and violence of humans. When we see children kidnapped and killed, terrorist bombings of innocent people, and serial killers that love to torture, sexually abuse and then kill their victims, we see that the hatred and violence of humans is horrific. And if humans can be this murderous, this violent, and this hateful, than the author of this misery must be far worse.

LIAR AND DECIEVER

In John 8:44, Jesus states this about satan…"When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." Jesus also states that there is no truth in satan (John 8:44). It is a powerful statement to say that someone has no truth in him. Satan was the first liar and he is the greatest liar. He lies to keep us from the truth. For example, his lies are responsible for all of the false religions and false doctrine in this world. 1 Timothy 4:1

states…"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." If the enemy can get someone to renounce Jesus and follow a false religion, then he can carry them into sin and death. There are literally hundreds of false religions out there. It was so bad that at time of Paul he found an idol dedicated to an unknown god (Acts 17:23). In other words, people will worship anything. Things aren't much better today-if satan can get you wrapped up in one of these religions he can keep you from the truth and keep you from God.

Part of the deceptive practices of satan is to blind the world to the truth to prevent them from knowing God. Second Corinthians 4:4 states…"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel or the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." By blinding people he stops them from being able to see the truth. He has children growing up with parents who follow false religions; he has people so blinded by sin, like drug addiction, that they cannot comprehend the truth; he has negative circumstances bombard people until they get so mad at God that they refuse to search for the truth; he has false teachers speak lies mixed with the truth to trap and confuse; his ways to blind are endless.

Satan is also a master of deception. He is so adept at deception that he can transform his appearance to look holy, pure, and part of God's kingdom, by looking like an angel…" And no wonder, for satan himself masquerades as an angel of light," (2 Cor.11:14). To have this ability, to be totally evil and appear as a righteous angel, means that his deceptive powers are great. This means that he can create illusions that appear real in order to deceive. His tongue is powerful indeed as he can make a lie appear as if it is the truth.

For example, in 1 Kings 22, king Ahab and king Jehoshaphat joined together in battle against the king of Aram. They had 400 prophets tell them prophetically that they would be victorious. However, Jehoshaphat knew that there was something wrong and asked if there was a prophet of the Lord in which they could inquire of. Ahab stated that there was Micaiah, but Ahab didn't like him because he said nothing good about him. When Micaiah was pressed for the truth, he told them to go home in peace as he saw Israel scattered like sheep without a shepherd. He also related a vision to them about what he saw…"I saw the Lord sitting on His throne with all the host of heaven standing around Him on His right and on His left. And the Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?' One suggested this, and another that. Finally, a spirit came forward,

stood before the Lord and said, 'I will entice him.' 'By what means?' the Lord asked. 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,' he said. 'You will succeed in enticing him,' said the Lord. 'Go and do it.' 'So now the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The Lord has decreed disaster for you,'" (1 Kings 22:19-23).

Micaiah told them not to go and then told them of a vision of how the 400 prophets were operating by a lying spirit, and told Ahab that the Lord had ordained disaster for him. Ahab went to the battle and died. He believed the lying spirit, and when he was told the truth twice (two witnesses) he still believed the lie unto death. This is the power of evil. It blinds you to the truth and makes the lie look like the truth.

The power of deception works through several variables: the weakness of the deceived, the power of the deceiver, and the willingness to be deceived. Humans are fallible and we make mistakes in processing information all the time. For example, the self-serving bias is something that has been found in social psychology research through hundreds of studies. This research tells us that when comparing one's self to another, we believe that we are better than others, regardless of our skills and abilities. People rate themselves as more moral than others, more intelligent than others, less prejudice than others, more honest, and healthier than others (Myers, 2010). In one study, 829,000 high school students were surveyed, and 0% thought they were below average in their ability to be friends with others and 60% rated themselves in the top 10% (Myers, 2010).

The fundamental attribution error has been extensively researched for almost 30 years and it is the tendency to watch others and overestimate the internal influences and underestimate the external influences of their behavior (Ross, 1977). In other words if you see someone trip on the sidewalk it must be because he is stupid or clumsy (internal reason), but if we trip on the sidewalk it is because of poor city maintenance (external reason). We tend to misread situations and when things go wrong, we blame others for bad results more, and we blame ourselves less (self-serving bias). Research has shown that spouses each believe that each one is doing more work than the other (Ross and Sicoly, 1979). When athletes do well they believe it is because of their skill (internal cause), but when they lose it was the ref's fault or they had too many bad breaks-external cause (Grove, Hanrahan, and McInman, 1991).

We have memory problems as well. Loftus and Pickrell (1995) did a study on the suggestibility of memory. They had subjects try to remember stories that actually happened to them, that were told to the researchers by family members. They prepared a booklet with 3 actual events that happened in each person's childhood (as told to the researchers by a family member), but they added an event of being lost in the mall, that did not happen to any of the subjects in their childhood. They asked each subject to write what they remembered about each event, and could write "I don't remember this," if nothing came to mind. What they found was that 25% believed that the false event, being lost in the mall, actually happened to them. This was impossible: they created this false event in their minds and fully believed that the memories were real. Our memories are not as accurate as we think.

We also have problems with our memories when our memories have important consequences, like being an eyewitness to an accident or a crime. Loftus, Miller, and Burns (1978) showed subjects in the experiment slides of an automobile accident. On one slide the car was in front of a stop sign. After the subjects viewed the slides, the test administrator suggested to half of the group that the accident happened in front of a yield sign. Later, when asked to remember and describe the accident, the majority remembered seeing a yield sign that was never there.

These mental flaws are just the tip of the iceberg. There is the misattribution effect, the self-handicapping effect, the negativity bias, the hindsight bias, selective recall, prejudice, stereotypes, memory blocks, memory conjunction errors, misperceptions, misunderstandings, the attractiveness bias, and so on. We use defense mechanisms like denial, repression, projection, reaction formation, and displacement that distort the truth. All of these have been found to exist through thousands of research studies. We make a lot of mistakes mentally and we are in no way perfect.

Not only are we weak, we face a powerful enemy who has been watching humans for thousands of years, and knows our weaknesses, and is a master of deception. If he can look like a holy angel, he can make sin look good, he can make sin seem to not be bad, and he can make evil look acceptable. Pornography is a perfect example.

Pornography has grown immensely and is everywhere. Pornography is now a multimillion dollar business. It is not just found in adult bookstores: it is on television, on cable, and on the internet. Porn use has increased for men and women. Over the internet, sex is the number one searched topic. Wolak,

Mitchell, and Finkelhor (2005) reported that 42% of youth in their survey had been exposed to unwanted pornography. More time, more money, and more energy has been invested in porn than ever before.

Yet, there is little being done about it. In fact the Barna research group found that 38% of adults see nothing wrong with porn use and 59% of adults see sexual fantasies as normal. Pornography use is increasing even though there are obvious dangers. Research has shown that pornography use (especially violent pornography) has been linked to sex crimes, such as rape, sexual assault, and child molestation (Malamuth, Addison, & Koss, 2000). Research has also shown that pornography use can increase the likeliness of men viewing women as sexual objects, increases acceptance of extra-marital sex, and makes marital partners feel cheap and cheated on when their partner's view porn. Pornography can also distort a person's views on the use of force in sex, where increased viewing of rape pornography may increase the viewer's acceptance of sexual assault (see Myers, 2003). This is not to mention the dangers of pornography fueling a sexual addiction (see Carnes, 2001).

Pornography use is increasing, there are dangers to viewing pornography, and fewer people see pornography as a problem. Pornography is creating more and more sexual problems and people are resisting it less and less. Satan has done a great job: what was once considered wrong is now being tolerated more and more, even though there are danger signs everywhere.

Finally, in many cases we want to be deceived. We want to sin and we are looking for someone or something to make what is wrong look right. For example, a man who is an alcoholic may want someone to tell him that it is acceptable to drink. His wife and children may want him to quit and threaten to leave him, he may lose his job because he is drinking, and be on the verge of bankruptcy. But deep down he wants to continue drinking even though at some level he can see that it is destroying his life. A friend may say, "Come on its just a little drink," or someone at the bar may say, "This is the only true friend you got," or someone else may say, "Your wife is a nag. Drinking helps you relax and you are a better person." In the end, he may continue drinking because he listens to the lies and wants to believe them. He may lose his family, but to continue drinking he will blame them for not understanding him. Satan can easily deceive someone like this man: he is powerful and the man wants to be deceived.

We see his deceptive power in the area of healing. Many people who are

extremely sick or terminally ill, will do almost anything to get healed when doctors give up and say there is nothing they can do. Satan knows this and provides a deceptive answer. For example, there is a man in Brazil named "John of God." He channels the spirits of dead healers, and performs surgeries on some of the people that come to see him. He will channel the spirit of a dead doctor, and based on the condition of the patient, will cut into flesh, with no anesthetic or other medical preparation. Some have claimed that he has healed terminal illnesses such as cancer and spinal cord injuries. There are people all over the world that are traveling to see this man. These healings are not by the Spirit of God, but to someone with a terminal illness, and with no spiritual beliefs (or with false spiritual beliefs), she can go to this man and see miracle power. Many become believers in his spirituality because he has the spiritual power to back it up. Satan deceives these people into believing in a god, who loves them and has healed them, and they serve this god, which in reality is satan.

OTHER NAMES AND ACTIVIES

In John 10:10 satan is described as a thief…"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." What satan wants to steal, kill, and destroy is souls. He loves to steal the Word of God away from those who are trying to find God…"Some people are like seed along the path, where the Word is sown. As soon as they hear it, satan comes and takes away the Word that was sown in them," (Mark 4:15). He is called the serpent (Rev.12:9), the red dragon (Rev.12:3), and the god of this age (2 Cor.4:4).

He is aggressive and cruel (1 Peter 5:8-9), and loves to sow discord into the plans of God. He will be forever sowing evil into this world until the end of time. The parable of the wheat and the tares reveals this in Matthew 13:24-30:

"Jesus told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 'An enemy did this,' he replied. The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root

up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Jesus interprets this parable for us in Matthew 13:37-39…"The One who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels." Jesus tells us that satan will be on this earth sowing evil until the end. He will never sow goodness, or kindness, or joy, or any of the fruits of the Spirit. He is only here to try and disrupt all of God's plans until the end of time. He is our enemy, but he is also God's enemy.

CHAPTER 3
THE KINGDOMS AT WAR

When Jesus ministered on this earth He taught much about the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. Jesus told us that with His arrival the kingdom of God was near, "'The time has come,' He said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news,'" (Mark 1:14-15). When Jesus was attacked for delivering people from evil spirits, He told them…"But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you," (Luke 11:20). When He sent out His disciples on a mission trip, He told them…"When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you,'" (Luke 10:9).

Jesus was establishing the fact that the kingdom of God had come through Him in a new and powerful way and that God was establishing His kingdom on earth. He taught that no one could enter the kingdom of God unless he was born again (John 3:5). Therefore, there is the kingdom of God which is enthroned in heaven. We receive this reward of the kingdom of heaven after our service here on earth…"The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom," (2 Tim.4:18).

There will be a future, ultimate establishment of God's kingdom on this earth when Jesus comes from heaven at the Second Coming and destroys all of the enemies of God on this earth. After describing the signs of the end Jesus told them a parable to help them understand when these things were to take place…"'Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near,'" (Luke 21:29-31). This verse cannot apply until the end of all things. This is echoed in 1 Cor.15:24…"Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power."

However, like sending the disciples out, He fully expected them and every generation of believers to minister in power and establish God's kingdom on this earth. For example, Jesus told his disciples…"I will give you the keys of

the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven," (Matthew 16:19). Keys stand for authority and Jesus was telling them that they had His authority to bind and loose whatever is necessary to build His kingdom on earth. The power to bind and loose will not be necessary when we go to heaven; nothing will be there to harm us and all things will be perfect. It is here, on earth, that this authority to bind evil and cast it away has been granted to believers as it is only needed here.

This kingdom is not visible and is not located on a map with boundaries and an exact physical location. This kingdom is invisible…"The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you," (Luke 17:20-21). Being an invisible kingdom means that it is all around us, but we must work to manifest this kingdom into the visible world. With every salvation, every healing, every miracle, and every prophetic word, God's kingdom is brought forth from the invisible realm to the visible and His kingdom is advanced.

For example, when we witness to others and someone gets saved, they are pulled from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Now, this person can witness, get others saved, and further the work of the kingdom. With every advance of God's kingdom, satan's kingdom is pushed back.

Jesus also stated that His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36). His kingdom is that of the Father and it is spiritual. He is above all things and He is the most powerful in all of the universe and therefore His kingdom is the most powerful and His reign is over the entire universe. Colossians 1:15-17 states…"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

The kingdom of heaven has an inward work upon humans where the world would be changed through inward change by salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we would now become followers and fully active in doing the will of God. We have the power to constrain our emotions, live in love, hear direction from God, and work miracles to manifest the power of God. We also have the ethical and moral demands of the kingdom of God placed before us to be living examples of the

holiness and righteousness of the kingdom of God ("Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect," Matt.5:48). Through, Christ, we are to become living ambassadors of the true kingdom. When others see our behavior they should be able to see which kingdom we represent: the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of darkness.

So, the kingdom of God is here but is not fully realized yet. When Jesus comes and destroys all the enemies of God in the last battle (see Zech. 12-14; Rev.19:11-21), then the fulfillment of His rule will be completed (knowing full well that satan will be loosed after 1000 years, Jesus is still in control of all things visibly on earth). So, the kingdom moves and advances and gains territory over time until the rapture of the church. Jesus referred to this in Luke 13:18-19…"What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches." The mustard seed is an extremely small seed, like a grain of pepper. It grows into a large tree and this represents the growth of the gospel from 12 men into an extremely large movement. The birds stand for the nations and this points to the kingdom being worldwide. This is what the kingdom of God is like.

The kingdom also advances by the Holy Spirit, and His ways are sometimes invisible as the kingdom grows but we don't always see how or why. For example, Jesus gave this parable to point to this fact…"This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain-first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come," (Mark 4:26-29). So, the kingdom will advance, but not always in ways that we expect or understand.

We are to operate under His Lordship and in His kingdom until our tasks are completed and we either die or are raptured into heaven. We live in this dynamic tension that His kingdom is here, but it is not in its fullness-yet. We are to keep pushing the enemy back and expand the borders of God's kingdom until the King fully embraces it here on earth.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE KINGDOM

God is enthroned in the heavens, in the supernatural realm, and humans are here on earth in the natural realm. God's kingdom is highly structured and

organized in relation to heaven and earth. The kingdom is described in military terms, as God is called the Lord of Hosts, which means that He is a commander of a great army (Psalm 24:10-the NIV has erased this name of God for some strange reason and has substituted for it Lord Almighty). The angels are also described as being in legions, which was a Roman military term that was a large contingent of soldiers, with some estimating from 3-6000 soldiers…"Do you think I cannot call on My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? (Matthew 26:53).

Since military terms are used, we can expect this kingdom to have a power structure, different levels of authority, and differing levels of responsibility. God is at the apex or top of all things. Directly underneath God, are the angelic hosts, which are His primary servants to carry out His will and to communicate His will towards humankind.

The Greek word for angel means messenger or sent one. They have many functions and serve God both on earth and in heaven. Jacob saw this in a dream in Genesis 28:12-13…"He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord."

Angels are created beings and they are purely spiritual beings. They live in the heavenly sphere and have a unique access to God. Angels do not have bodies as we do. As God is Spirit (John 4:24), angels are created as ministering spirits (Hebrews 1:14). They are also described as winds or flames of fire (Hebrews 1:7). They are not phantoms or ghosts as they can take on human form. For example, when Abraham was visited by 3 men, 2 of them were actually angels (Gen.18:2; 19:1). In fact, the book of Hebrews admonishes us to be careful how we treat strangers as they may in fact be angels (13:2). This can only mean that angels may take on human form and that we better be careful how we treat others because we may in fact be interacting with angels who are sent to watch and address our Christian behavior.

It may sound confusing to be described as a ministering spirit, but also be able to take on solid, human form. The best way to understand this is by observing the resurrected body of Jesus. He had a body that could eat and receive food (Luke 24:42-43). Jesus even proved to them that He had a body that was real…"Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself! Touch Me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have," (Luke

24:39).

However, at the same time, He could appear in a room without using the door and then could disappear in a moment…"When He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and He disappeared from their sight," (Luke 24:30-31). His body was not bound by the natural physical laws that we are bound to, and it is really beyond our understanding how a solid body can actually have the spiritual functions of disappearing. However, we do know it is possible through the life of Christ, and the angels may have similar bodies or abilities.

The only other possibility is that the angels appear in human form, but have no solid substance. They would appear real or solid, but you could pass your hand right through them. This would not make sense from the sheer fact that some people have been rescued by angels where an angel diverts a car or moves a car to help a human avoid an accident, or moving a heavy object that is about to fall upon someone (for these stories of angelic encounters see "*A Rustle of Angels*" by Webber and Webber, 1994, and "*Angels on Assignment*" by Charles and Francis Hunter, 1979). At some point, if just a shape or form, they would have to materialize power to move solid, heavy objects. For example, in Revelation 18:21 an angel picks up a large boulder and throws it into the sea. This evidence supports the fact that angels can take on solid form.

There are attending angels that appear to solely focus on attending to God and worshipping Him. For example Daniel 7:9-10 states…"As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of His head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before Him. Thousands upon thousands attended Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened." The worshipping angels are also mentioned in Rev.7:11…"All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God." The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders worship God continuously (Rev.4:4-11). These angels stay close to the throne, attend to God, and worship Him for all eternity. Due to the fact that they continuously worship and do so out of their own free-will shows their closeness to Him and the Majesty of Him.

Angels are also involved with revealing God's plan to His people. These involve direction, information (revelation), and guidance. For direction, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream after Herod died and told him to leave Egypt with his family and go back to Israel (Matthew 2:19-20); for revelation, an angel was sent to Mary to tell her of the coming of the Messiah and that she would bear Him (Luke 1:26-38); and for guidance, Acts 10:3-6, an angel appeared to Cornelius and told him to go to Joppa and bring back Peter who was staying at Simon the tanner's house.

Angels are also involved in rescue and protection. For example, when Peter was imprisoned an angel came into his cell, told him to get ready, and led him out of the prison (Acts 12:6-10). For protection, Daniel 6:22 it states…"My God sent His angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions." In relation to protection, it is believed that we all have at least one guardian angel to watch over us according to Matthew 18:10…"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven." In other words, Jesus is alluding to the fact that each person is so important to God that he or she has a personal angel that is in direct communication with the Father. This also points to the fact that the angels are assigned to a person on earth but still are in contact with the Father in heaven.

Angels are also involved in comforting and strengthening us in times of physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. When Jesus was finished with being tempted by satan, angels came and attended Him (Matthew 4:11). When Jesus was in the agony of Gethsemane, an angel appeared to strengthen Him (Luke 22:43); and, when Elijah collapsed with exhaustion in the desert, an angel touched him and gave him food and drink (1 Kings 19:3-8).

Angels are also involved in warfare. They are mighty warriors, and engage in battle when necessary. They are not flowery, feminine, fairies. They are in the army of the Lord and are soldiers that do battle with the enemy. They are called the "mighty ones" in Psalm 103:20. They are extremely powerful and battle the powerful demonic foes. Angelic warfare is mentioned in Rev. 12:7…"And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back." Also, in Daniel 10:12-13, the angelic messenger stated that he was dispatched to Daniel, but was in battle to get there for 21 days…"Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to

them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days."

For thousands of years the organizational structure of the kingdom of God has been examined and debated. We know that there is structure in God's kingdom because of its references to being an army, but also because of the designation of angels in rank and in location. The title "archangel" denotes rank. For example, Michael is described as an archangel in Jude 9. Arch in the Greek means chief, or first in a series, or leader. Gabriel has also been identified as an archangel because of the great tasks he is given and because he identifies himself as one that stands in the Presence of God (Luke 1:19). He is not directly called an archangel however. If an archangel is a leader, he is then over other angels in title and authority. This means that there must be structure in the heavenly kingdom.

There is not a clear consensus by any means on an exact system of angelic powers. Here are some examples of the classification schemes of several early church fathers:

DIONYSIUS THE AREOPAGITE: 1ST CENTURY (these are listed from greatest power to least)	**GREGORY THE GREAT: 2ND CENTURY** (these are listed from greatest power to least)
• Seraphim • Cherubim • Thrones • Dominations • Virtues • Powers • Principalities • Archangels • Angels	• Seraphim • Cherubim • Thrones • Dominations • Principalities • Powers • Virtues • Archangels • Angels

Some lists have 7 levels, some 9, and some even more. Surprisingly, most saw archangels and angels as last in their orders. However, more recently, Billy Graham listed his idea of the angelic hierarchy in the following order from greatest to least: Archangels, Angels, Seraphim, Cherubim, Principalities, Authorities, Powers, Thrones, Might, and Dominion.

There are no perfect lists of angelic hierarchies. There are two different ways to view these opposing lists. The early church fathers put the seraphim

and the cherubim in the highest positions as they were always mentioned in the Scriptures as being the closest to God and functioning in the Presence of God. In Graham's assessment the archangels are the highest because arch means first or head of a series of things, and therefore the archangels are the head of all angels.

The next set of angels, after the highest, are thrones, powers (dominions-KJV), rulers (principalities-KJV), and authorities (powers-KJV), listed in this order, in Colossians 1:21. Powers (virtues) is listed next, and this can be found in 1 Peter 3:22 and Ephesians 1:21. These 5 angel groups are listed more or less consistently in the middle of all angel classifications.

We do not have enough information in Scripture to be completely sure about any angel hierarchy. However, it is safe to say that there are levels of angels. There are also locations where angels are ruling, with various levels of power. For example, the archangel Michael is considered the guardian of Israel because he is identified to Daniel as "your prince" in Daniel 10:21. There are 4 angels who stand at the 4 corners of the earth to hold back the 4 winds in Revelation 7:1. Another angel comes out of the east and gives the 4 angels directions (shows location and authority). Also, in Revelation, angels were given different assignments to different locations in judgment. An angel pours a bowl of wrath on the sea (16:3), another on the sun (16:8), and another poured his bowl on the great river Euphrates (16:12). Also, there are currently 4 angels stationed at the Euphrates river until they are released during the tribulation…"It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.' And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind," (Rev.9:14-15).

We also get an idea of the different levels of authority that angels have by their description in the Book of Revelation. For example, Rev.18:1 declares…"After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor." This, obviously, is not a typical angel. The Greek word for authority is *exousia*, which means having the right or authority to accomplish something. This angel had great or massive authority. Rev. 10:1 talks about another "mighty angel" coming down from heaven. The word for mighty in the Greek is *ischuros*, and this means powerful, mighty, or strong. This Greek word is also used for the mighty angel in Revelation 5:2. So, some angels have great authority, and some have great power.

Not all angels are described in these ways. For example, in Revelation 8:3, the angel is described as "another angel." This does not mean that the angel is not important, but it is not described in specific terms that stand out. All this points to the fact that some angels stood out and were described that way while others did not according to power and authority.

THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

Satan also has a kingdom. He has servants of various levels of power that serve under him. It is a well designed army that moves on this earth to block, obstruct, and thwart God's kingdom at all costs. This opposition is constant and will be there until the very end of time. For example, in the parable of the sower, the farmer sows the seed (which is the Word of God), but the birds came and ate it up. Jesus states that this represents the opposition of satan…"Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, satan comes and takes away the Word that was sown in them," (Mark 4:15). In other words, God is sowing and satan is stealing.

In the parable of the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13:24-43), Jesus sows the good seeds, and the good seeds stand for the sons of the kingdom (v.37-38). The weeds that grow with the wheat are the sons of the evil one and the sower of these evil weeds are satan (v.38-39). They will exist together until the end of time when the weeds are pulled up and thrown into the burning furnace (v.40-43). So, Jesus warns us that kingdom of darkness will be there until the end of time, growing right alongside the kingdom of heaven.

DEMONS

The primary servants of satan are his angels, which are demons. The servants of satan are called demons in Matthew 8:16…"When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Him," and in Luke 8:30…"Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' "Legion,' he replied, because many demons had gone into him." Demons are also identified as evil or unclean spirits in Mark 7:25…"In fact, as soon as she heard about Him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at His feet."

Demons are the fallen angels who fought with satan to try and overthrow God. They were cast out of heaven and cannot return. They are identified as

satan's angels in Revelation 12:7. They are under satan and serve him directly; God has nothing more to do with them.

Demons are spiritual beings as they are called evil or unclean spirits; they are spirits just as God's angels are. They came from the same place, were created in the same order, but they fell into sin. They are powerful beings as they originally were created to serve God, but chose to follow satan in rebellion. They can take on human form much in the same way that angels can.

For example, when ministering deliverance, demons can manipulate a human body while being cast out. I have seen horns grow out of a head, fangs grow in a mouth, and hair and skin change color. Once, I prayed for a woman with a lump on the back of her neck the size of a grapefruit. The woman was going to have surgery the next morning to remove it and wanted prayer. When I laid my hands on the lump, it ran from my hand and went down her spine. After I bound it and cast it out, the lump disappeared and she canceled the surgery. I have talked to many Satanists who claimed that before a human sacrifice the high priests' face would change into a lizard or a demon like face. These are all personal experiences, but at the least, demons can take on a human likeness and can manipulate the body from the inside.

The other interpretation is that they appear in human form, but it is an illusion, or a form, but not real substance. As in the previous discussion on angels, demons can manipulate solid objects, and this would be very difficult if they were just immaterial forms. Demons can move furniture and throw dishes. This activity has been assigned to ghosts or poltergeists (this will be covered in chapter 7), but in reality they are demonic spirits.

Early Church Fathers struggled with the question of whether demons could have sex with humans, as many satanic followers, and those saints tempted by demons to have sex in the night through dreams and visions, claimed that demons could. Some believed that demons could take a human form; others believed that demons could steal sperm that had been spilled (through masturbation as an example) and inject it into a woman to create a possessed child from birth; others believed that demons could animate dead bodies and work through them (Robbins, 1959). It is hard to be firm on this, but at the least, demons can use an object to sexually assault another, and since they can move objects, they can move the sexual parts of the human body.

From the Scriptures we can see that demons can drive people to wander to locations (Luke 8:29), can throw a person to the ground (Luke 9:42), shake

someone violently and put him into convulsions (Mark 1:26; 9:20), can be so strong that no one could overpower them (Mark 5:4), and can give a person super human strength by breaking chains (Luke 8:29). Demons can also take on human form to fool people. Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light (2 Cor.11:14), so their powers of illusion and transformation are immense. This means that they may blend in with a crowd to speak anonymously to incite a riot, promote a fight, or encourage a rape. Demons encourage sin and what better way to do this than by becoming one of a multitude and then subtly work behind the scenes to encourage the worst possible outcome.

Demons are highly intelligent creatures as they know the Lord (Mark 1:24), they know their doom (Matthew 8:29), and have beliefs (James 2:19). They also know and teach corrupt doctrine…"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons," (1 Tim.4:1). Even satan tried to use the Word to entice Jesus to sin by leaving out a portion of Psalm 91 to prove a wrong point (Matthew 4:5-7).

Demons are immoral beings and never encourage righteousness, but are forever promoting sin and destruction. Demons are involved with sickness and diseases. For example, when Jesus went into the synagogue He met a woman who was "crippled by a spirit for eighteen years," (Luke 13:11). Demons are involved with mental illness and insanity because when the man who was possessed by a legion of demons was set free, he was in his right mind (Luke 8:35). Demons are involved in lying and perverting the truth, as there are deceiving spirits (1 Tim.4:1) and lying spirits (1 Kings 22:23).

Demons love to torment and harass the human race. Paul had a messenger from satan torment him as described in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9. He petitioned God to deliver him, but God said…"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." This demon continued to torment Paul and had no mercy on him. This demon would not stop as long as it had permission to inflict pain. There will be demons loosed in the end times that will have the power to torment, but not kill people, for 5 months (Rev.9:1-12).

ORGANIZATION OF SATAN'S KINGDOM

Demons serve under satan. Evil has an organizational structure just as in

the heavenly kingdom. Jesus states that satan has a kingdom in Luke 11:18:"If satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?" It is also described in military terms as satan is called a "prince" in John 14:30 and a "ruler" in Ephesians 2:2. When the demon possessed man was asked his name in Luke 8:31, he replied "Legion." Legion was a military term used to denote 3-6000 soldiers as noted before. Satan has an evil counterfeit for everything God has. His kingdom is organized like an army and has different levels of power and authority.

Ephesians 6:12 describes some of the elements of satan's kingdom…"For our struggle is against the rulers (principalities-KJV), against the authorities (powers-KJV), against the powers of this dark world (the rulers of darkness-KJV) and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (spiritual wickedness in high places-KJV)." The first level, the rulers (or principalities), is the Greek word, *arche*, which means the head or the beginning, and it also means to rule, so it may fully mean the head of rulers, or the first of rulers. The rulers or the principalities are the leaders or the top angels of evil in satan's kingdom.

The second term, the authorities or powers, is the Greek word, *exousia*, and this word means the right to do something, having the right and the power to execute something. These are the evil powers with different levels of authority over sin and territory. Where they have the authority to dwell they also have the right to carry out their evil designs.

The third term, the powers of this dark world, occurs only here in the New Testament. It was also called world-rulers, and was applied in the ancient world to the planets, to gods, and in reference to the Roman emperor. It means the evil entities that rule over this world. The Roman emperor was literally the ruler of the world, and this term also applies to the evil angels given territorial assignments.

The final term, spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms, has several aspects to it. First, this term denotes the fact that evil does dwell in the heavenly realms. Second, the word 'realms' is plural, which means that there are many evil realms. Third, these demon rulers are spiritual beings and they are purely evil. In other words, they rule in the lower heavenlies, below God.

Many have seen that there are several levels of the heavens. For example, Paul stated that he was caught up to the 3rd heaven…"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in

the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man, whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-was caught up to paradise," (2 Cor.12:2-4). Here, Paul identifies the 3rd heaven as paradise, or in other words-heaven.

The first heaven is our universe. The second heaven is where the evil one dwells as well as his fallen angels. Satan is called "the ruler of the kingdom of the air," and he is the leader of the "spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms," (Eph. 2:2; 6:12). He cannot dwell in the 3rd heaven as God dwells there. His primary activity is in the first and second heavens. Scripture alludes to this in Revelation 14:6…"Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth-to every nation, tribe, language and people." In this verse, midair can be translated in the Greek as "middle heaven." That there is more than one heaven can be seen from the plural form of the word heaven in Psalm 19:1…"The heavens declare the glory of God," Ephesians 4:10…"He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens," and in Jeremiah 32:17…"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm." (See figure 1)

Figure 1

The kingdom of evil is vast and covers the entire earth. We know that there are demons that are quite large and powerful as they are the head over entire nations. For example, Daniel 10:13 states…"But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of

Persia." Also, the king of Greece is mentioned in Daniel 10:20. That these Scriptures refer to demonic powers are because of the following reasons.

First, the most powerful of angels fight against them. These must be spiritual beings as these angels are in direct contact with them. Second, the angels encounter tremendous resistance by these enemies. The angel (some say Jesus) was dispatched in answer to Daniel's prayer but the prince of Persia resisted the angel in battle for 21 days. Humans would have no such ability to resist angelic powers this way. Finally, this angel was detained by the prince of Persia as the first angel was detained (Daniel 10:13). No human power could detain an angel of this magnitude until Michael was called in to help.

These evil powers ruled over entire empires. Persia, at the time of Daniel became a world power that stretched from Turkey to the borders of India. This demonic spirit was in charge as the word "prince" is singular. This one evil power had a vast territory to rule. Greece would be the next world power, and Alexander the Great would conquer the world. The prince of Greece would have influence over much of the world.

These evil spirits have powers that are underneath them that help them in their rule. The demons that actually possess people are the more minor evil powers. They are powerful, but the evil spirits that rule over cities are more powerful and rarely infest an individual. They usually send demonic spirits under their domain to do their bidding. They rule, and rulers usually manage the government of their territory.

With this great power, the power to detain and resist the most powerful of angels, they have great influence in the world of human affairs. We can see this as cities take on certain characteristics that mimic the ruler of that city. For example, the ruling spirit over San Francisco is a perverse spirit, and it draws sexually impure people. Countries like Iran and Iraq have powerful spirits of violence and religious spirits and they are deadly in their influence. Entire regions may have ruling powers as well. For example, you may see several states connected into a region with dominant political, religious, moral, and spiritual themes that are against the Bible. This may entail large sections of the north-east coast and north east states in America, as an example.

The demons that we tend to come in contact with the most are the servants or the "privates" in the army. As angels are sent to help people in their individual lives, demons are sent to interfere and obstruct our lives. Though

these demons have great power to cause damage, they are still servants of more powerful rulers.

Territorial demons inhabit much smaller areas, like a house, a hotel, or a small section of town. They stay to haunt and harass those that enter their territories. They may also rule in a section of city as in a drug district or a prostitution-porn district. They are not interested in possession of a person, but they possess areas of land. This will be covered more in the chapter on ghosts and haunted houses. Territorial spirits are under the rulers and maintain some greater levels of authority than the demons assigned to personal possessions.

There is no sure way of knowing how the kingdom of darkness is labeled in its hierarchy as Scripture gives hints, but no complete understanding. A way to view this based on the way the early church fathers saw the angelic hierarchy could (not absolutely) look like this:

- **Princes**: from Daniel 10:12-21, these evil powers fought with the archangel Michael and the angel of the Lord.

- **Thrones**: from Colossians 1:16. This word is also used for the throne of God. It is the first in the list of Colossians 1:16. This list was used by the early church fathers for the angelic hierarchy, but it can also be used for the evil kingdom as two of the terms (principalities and powers) are listed in both Col.1:16 and Eph.6:12.

- **Dominions (powers)**: This is next in the list in Col.1:16.

- **Principalities (rulers)**: This the 3rd term in Col.1:16 and this is the 1st term listed in Eph.6:12.

- **Powers (authorities)**: This the final term in Col.1:16 and the 2nd term

listed in Eph.6:12.

- **Rulers of darkness:** This is the 3rd term listed in Eph.6:12. These are the world rulers as the phrase means world power of darkness in the Greek.

- **Spiritual wickedness in high places (spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms):** This is the final term listed in Eph.6:12.

- **Demons:** Theses are the lower servants that have the most direct contact with humans.

This chapter has focused on the structure of evil in its kingdom. The next chapters will focus on how evil seeks to establish and further its influence in our lives. The activities of demons will be extensively covered.

THE ACTIVITIES

OF THE

KINGDOM OF

DARKNESS

CHAPTER 4
DEMON POSSESSION

In the New Testament, demon possession was a condition that Jesus faced quite often. In the opening scenes of His ministry in the gospel of Mark, Jesus is confronted by a man possessed by an evil spirit…"Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are-the Holy One of God!' 'Be quiet!' said Jesus sternly. 'Come out of him!' The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek," (Mark 1:23-26).

Jesus dealt with the reality of the kingdom of evil by overcoming it. Whenever He was confronted by someone possessed by a demon He commanded it to leave. He was never afraid of them and would have nothing to do with them. Whenever a demon spoke

He would command it to be silent. At one point, a demon said…"I know who you are-the Holy One of God!" (Luke 4:34). In ancient times people did not give out their full names to strangers. Usually, you would give your full name to only your closest friends and family. To know someone's full name meant you had power over them as they had given you private information about themselves. So, when the demons said "I know you," they were trying to state that they had power over Jesus. Jesus' answer was…"'Be quiet!' Jesus said sternly. 'Come out of him!'" (Luke 4:35). In other words Jesus did not give them any authority and took complete authority over them so the crowd would know that this.

In this case of deliverance, the demon also tried to reason with Jesus. In Luke 4:34, the demon said…"Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" This can be read in the Greek…"What do we have in common?" Jesus basically states that they have nothing in common and it must leave. The demon was trying to negotiate or find some place where the kingdom of evil could dwell with the kingdom of God. Jesus is saying that the kingdom of evil has nothing in common or nothing to share with the kingdom of God. In other words, we will always be in conflict and therefore we must always fight against them.

For many Christians it is hard to believe that demons can and still do

possess people. However, if we understand their evil nature, their evil intents, and their plans, we can still see that demons will not stop in their plans to possess humans until their kingdom is destroyed. Theologically, there is no evidence that demonic possession has stopped, and therefore, we must understand and deal with it.

LEVELS OF POSSESSION

Demons want to possess; they want to possess property, animals and people. Possession means to own, to influence, dominate, or control (American Heritage Dictionary). Demons want to dominate and control everything they come across. The more that they can control people, the more that they can control what humans do and thus get them to commit evil. Demons will not stop trying to possess humans as this is their primary way to spread evil.

The more physical, mental, and spiritual territory that demons possess then the more that they own. They can get to the point where they completely possess a person. This is extremely rare, but when this happens they can freely speak through the person, direct the person to move at their command, and even give them extraordinary strength. The Gadarene man who had the legion of demons was an example of a full possession. The demons talked through the man (Luke 8:31), gave him supernatural strength to break chains (Luke 8:29), was driven by the demon to go to solitary places (Luke 8:29), was violent (Matthew 8:28), and was mentally unstable as he would cry out and cut himself with stones (Mark 5:5).

Demons will try to obtain as much territory as they can and will not stop trying to possess more of a person unless they are resisted. Demons seek to fully possess a person, but this usually takes a long period of time. For most people, they surrender their will a little bit at a time until they either wake up and get help for their downward slide or they continue in sin until there is virtually nothing left of their personality as the demons eventually take over completely.

Demons usually work slowly and subtly in order to hide their presence as long as possible. They generally start working on the outside through whispers, oppression, subtle lies, and misrepresentation of facts. For example, a demon may whisper to a teenage girl that everyone is staring at her because they think she is ugly or that everyone is whispering about her behind her back. The girl may start to become insecure and self-conscious.

Then the demon may see classmates talking and laughing and whisper, “see, they are talking about you.” Now she becomes even more insecure and may become slightly paranoid every time she sees someone talking and laughing around her. The demon may set up or point out specific circumstances to feed these fears. Two girls may be talking and walking by this girl and when they get passed her the demon may whisper, “they don’t like you, they didn’t even look at you.” She may then turn and see them talking and assume they are talking about her. Now, the paranoia builds.

It is all so subtle. The demons seek to work outside of your awareness, to speak softly or insert thoughts, or create oppressive moods that cannot easily be traced back to them, especially by individuals who are not aware of evil spirits or deny that they even exist. They try to insert thoughts by a quiet whisper where you might actually believe that the thought was your own rather than from an external source.

The stages of demonic possession are as follows: oppression, foothold, partial possession, and full possession (see figure 2)

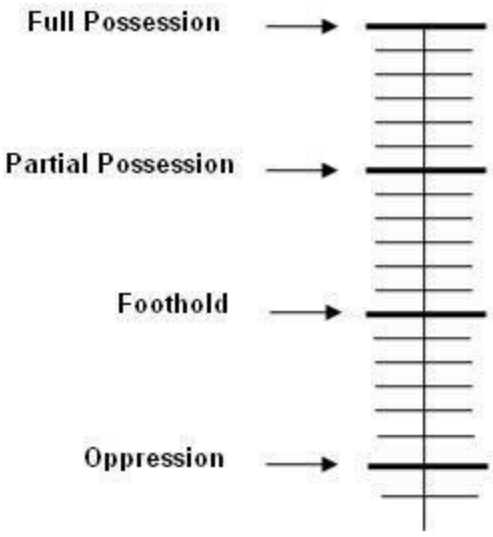

Figure 2

In the first stage, oppression, the demons stay on the outside and put pressure on the person to seek a stronger foothold. The demons may place a temptation in front of a person, may cause accidents, and weigh down upon a person to feel like oppression, or speak thoughts into a person. At the oppression level the demons seek to get more control over you by a specific

attack. If successful, a foothold may develop.

A foothold is where the demon actually gains ground. The person fell into sin, believed the lie, or did not fight off the oppression and so the demon stays and is more empowered. At each and every stage, the more power the demon has the less free-will a person has (see figure 3). In other words there is a struggle for power within the person to see who will gain control. Remember, possession means ownership, and demons seek ownership wherever they go.

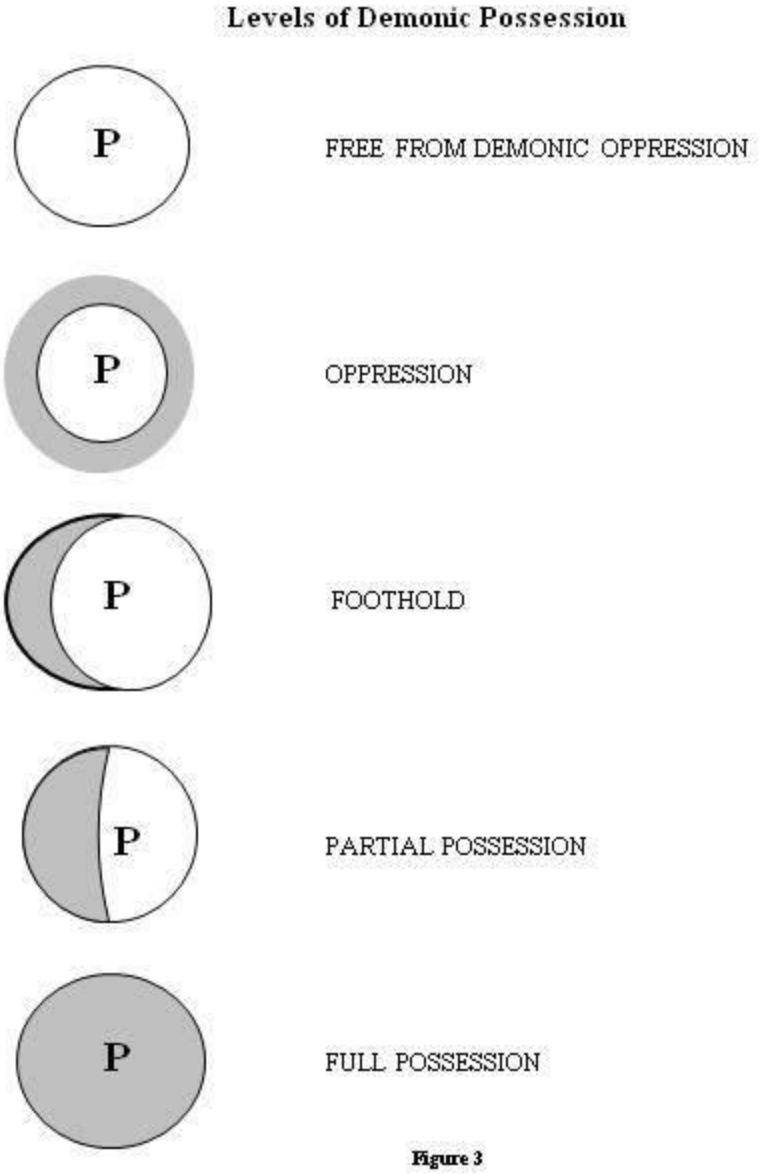

Figure 3

At the foothold stage a person has surrendered a part of themselves. A

person may have quit drinking alcohol but the demon seeks to set up the person to drink again. If the demon can get the person to be addicted to alcohol then that area of their life is bound with evil in which the person has little or no control. If the person is constantly thinking about or craving alcohol, then the demon has bound up part of the person's free-will and his ability to stay away from sin.

In many cases spirits of infirmity are classified here. Everything else about a person may be fully functional, except in an area of the body. For example, when Jesus preached in a synagogue, a woman was present who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years (Luke 13:10-17). When Jesus ministered to her He addressed the infirmity but nothing else. This appeared to be the most significant problem since this is what Jesus focused His attention and power on.

The next level is partial possession and this is where several footholds are developed. The person may have started with an alcohol problem, but now he has wandered into pornography, emotional and physical abuse, and anger control issues. The control of the demon has increased and now there may be several demons to deal with. The other demons may have been there at the beginning but there was only one evil spirit that started the process; the others remained silent until a foothold was established. While drunk (spirit of witchcraft), a lying spirit may encourage the person to look at pornography on the internet. Once the person begins to look at the porn the perverse spirit begins to work hard to wrap the person into an addiction so that more of the will is compromised.

While drunk, a person may be encouraged to fight others or abuse others to deal with pent up anger and frustration at the downward slide he is in (spirit of violence). Now the person has several major problems that have serious spiritual and life consequences. If left untreated the person may slide into a full possession.

People who end up fully possessed have very diverse pathways of torment. For some, they get into sin and fall down a sinful pathway. They start at the oppression level and move down to the full possession level. As they get deeper and deeper into sin they lose more and more freedom. The sin may start early in life, at middle age or at any time.

There are some cases where the demons start by attacking a person's mental health. The demons start early in life through abuse, rejection, fear, and neglect, and push the person, situation by situation towards insanity,

where they are in continuous mental pain. They become fully possessed by completely losing their ability to exercise control over their thoughts and emotions.

During the times of possession there appears to be very different levels of consciousness experienced by the possessed. In some cases the victim can hear the voice of the demon clearly and the demon can clearly hear the victim. This is a type of separate consciousness (see figure 4). As the demon gains more control there appears a co-consciousness where the demon takes over the functioning of the person for brief periods of time. The victim may be totally unaware of what was said or done while the demon took over. However, there are cases where the person is aware of what happens when the demon takes over, but they cannot stop the demon from acting. This would explain why a victim would know a foreign language without studying or know facts beyond their years; the demon communicates from its consciousness while the victim's consciousness remains untouched.

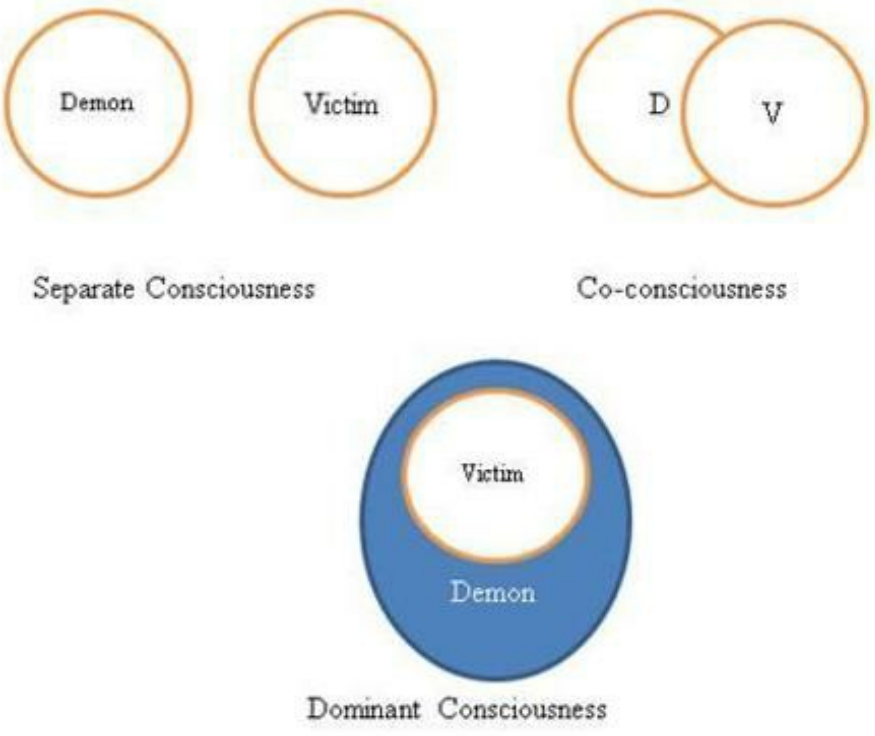

Figure 4

An example of co-consciousness comes from a case I worked on where a victim was possessed by a demon while drinking mass quantities of alcohol and then would get in his car and drive down the road. He would black out and would wake up in all sorts of accidents and strange car positions. While this was occurring the demon would tell him what it was going to do and the victim was unable to stop it. He could see what he was doing but had no power to stop it.

At the deeper levels of possession there is a dominant consciousness, where the demon takes over the mind and the body of the victim permanently (see figure 4). The victim has very little power or control. In some cases the victim will have total unawareness for what is going on. In some cases they will have some awareness, but only what the demon allows them to know. For example, one victim explained the experience during a full possession of being held in a dark closet, where he could hear muffled sounds sometimes, but the main thing he could hear was the voice of the demon talking to him. He would try to break out of the closet but felt powerless to change his circumstances.

Another type of full possession is very strange. It is almost as if a person is groomed by demons at an early age to become fully possessed. There are cases where a demon will appear to a child or a teen as a friend or a guide. They may appear in human form and converse with a child. The child may be a loner or have emotional problems and the demon seeks to befriend the child. However, there are some cases where the demons seek to terrify the child (making knocking sounds, having a hideous face appear in the window, bumping the bed). Most people do not believe in demons and they will think that their frightened children are hallucinating, have a mental problem, or simply are making up stories for attention. The child is then medicated, punished, ridiculed, or all the above, and the evil powers are never addressed.

When a demon comes as a friend or a guide it seeks to gain foothold status by friendship. The child or teen will begin to trust or confide in the evil spirit and thus hand authority over to the demon. The child will become more and more dependent on the demon guide and actually make major life decisions on the advice of this demon. I have literally been involved in cases where the person began to ask the demon who to marry and if they should go to college and where. If the child or teen tries to break away the demon will play mind tricks on the child by either threats to never help again, by frightening the

child that real harm will come if they try to get away, or they will pout and act (it is only an act) as if it is hurt and try to draw the child back through sympathy.

The demon guide may never take full possession of the person. They may always play the role as a guide. For instance, the demon guide may encourage a teen to go to a psychic, or practice divination (witchcraft), which may then allow a spirit of witchcraft to come in, but the guide stays in place on the outside to continue to guide the teen into enslavement. Their job is to keep the person enslaved and they usually have great authority given to them after several years.

As always, there are exceptions to the rule. In one particular case a woman at our church had a demon disguise itself as Jesus and come and talk to her about her problems. She didn't like herself at all as she was divorced two times and each time the marriage was physically and sexually abusive. The demon spent a long time developing a friendship with her. He offered her love, consolation, and advice.

Then one day, he offered her to be his bride and they would be forever happy. He would show her the mysteries of heaven, give her love and companionship, and all she had to do was give of herself completely to him. She described to me several times in which she actually had intercourse with the demon who she thought was Jesus. Whether this actually happened or it was a fantasy, we may never know. However, what is true is that she believed that it happened.

There are cases where people invite these spirits into their lives as they believe that these spirit guides actually help. The New Age movement encourages people to find their spirit guide and even channel their spirit guide into their bodies. Channeling is actually inviting the spirit into your body to take over or to communicate information to you or others. These people do not believe that these spirits are demons; they believe that these are loving, benevolent angels, spirits, or great teachers that have died.

These people are actually giving these evil spirits authority over their lives. There are no loving spirit guides in Scripture. We have guardian angels but we are not to try and consult with them. We are forbidden to consult the dead, and we are forbidden to go to those who practice witchcraft and consult divining spirits (Duet. 18:9-13). Since these activities are all against the Word of God, they must be demons in disguise.

Finally, a person may be possessed in the womb. The mother and/or father

may transfer the demon, knowingly or unknowingly. In addition, some theologians believed that demons could capture released sperm and inject a woman with it, or have intercourse with a female and release it. This would truly be a troubled person from the beginning.

SUDDEN OR QUICK POSSESSIONS

There are unique and tragic cases where individuals have sudden or immediate contact with demonic spirits. This is usually through traumatic events, such as rape and child sexual abuse. What generally happens is that when the person is abused the demons inside one person transfers to the other. Sex is literally when the two become one. When sexual abuse or rape occurs, the boundaries of the personal self of the victim are invaded. False authority is established here as the demon has authority over the abuser and the abuser transfers this authority to the victim. The victim doesn't ask for this or want it-they are assaulted and violated by someone else overpowering them and thus come under the authority of the abuser. An analogy would be a sex offender who rapes a woman and gives her a sexually transmitted disease. What was in him is now in her.

When the abuser rapes a victim one or all the demons may transfer to the victim. The goal is to quickly cause mental and spiritual deterioration in the victim. The victim may have been a loving, friendly, stable individual, but after the rape she may be full of fear, nightmares, low self-esteem, hatred, depression, and so on. Some of the spiritual attacks are blaming God for the abuse, anger at God, staying away from church, avoidance of the Word, and lack of hope.

The demons may scope out a victim for months or years. If they can use a corrupt possessed person to attacked the innocent and destroy their lives, they can create frustration, fear, and spiritual questioning of God in loved ones around the victim. Remember, most people have a poor, incomplete understanding of the presence of demons. Many go undelivered and the demons are left in place to take the life out of entire families. To watch a loved one deteriorate and go through such unjust circumstances can create problems in entire families.

So what happens to the corrupt people who have the demons and the demons transfer to the victim? Usually, they are so unrepentant and unaware

of evil that they let evil back in when they continue to sin. They are like an open door-there is nothing to keep burglars or robbers out. These people can be like temporary warehouses for evil, where some of the old items leave and are eventually replaced by new inventory.

There are also quick possessions when the sins are particularly vile or heinous. For example, one perverse sexual encounter may be enough to invite a perverse spirit in. Also, abortion, murder and witchcraft practices may be powerful enough where one sin may lead to a sudden demonic attachment. There are several reasons why this happens. First, these sins are so devastating to victims and to the perpetrators that God sends a clear message: once you cross this line there are serious consequences. Secondly, many contemplate serious sins for months and years and never cross the line. A lying spirit may work on the person until he gives into the sin. There was always demonic activity; at first it was on the outside but once the sin is committed they move inside. So, it is sudden on one level, but on another level there was long term demonic activity. Finally, some of the more serious sins have the most powerful demons behind them. Some sins, like witchcraft and murder, have very powerful spirits that have more authority to do more damage. If you get involved with more dangerous sins you encounter more dangerous demons that are harder to get rid of.

GENERATIONAL DEMONS

It is no mystery that things are passed down from one generation to another. When you visit a doctor and state that you may be having a problem with your heart, a growth, or diabetes, one of the first questions you will be asked is, “does this run in your family?” The Bible supports the fact that things may be passed down from one generation to another spiritually…”You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments,” (Ex.20:5-6). In other words, God is telling us that He can continue to bless or withhold the blessing for more than one generation. God wants to bless and His love is so much greater than we can imagine as He wants to bless for thousands of generations but only punish for a few.

Demons can jump from one generation to another. Examples of generational spirits being passed down are: sin that is not addressed evil that is not cast out, a dedication to false gods, or ignorance. If someone is in sin and refuses to repent and a demon is attached to that person, when they die, the demon seeks the bloodline relative to continue its work. Demons have authority to work in bloodlines much in the same way that a child may inherit all his parents' estate when they die. If there is a lot of money the children will be blessed. If there are debts and criminal activity, the children will inherit headaches.

If demons are not cast out of a family, then they have the implicit authority from the family to continue to work. This is one of the reasons why some babies are born with birth defects and diseases continue in a family. For some, the parents may have dedicated their child to a false god without the child even being aware of it. One person I worked with was dedicated to satan as a baby (in a cult) by the parents and was raised as a breeder. She was to get pregnant and midway through the pregnancy they would abort the baby and sacrifice it to satan. Her sole job was to have babies for human sacrifices. Her parents loosed demons into her life through giving evil authority over her. When she eventually had children, she gave them over to satan and the evil continued.

Demons can skip generations if there are Christian parents who break all generational curses. In many cases the demons will go to aunts, uncles, or cousins to continue their work. Demons look for weaknesses in the bloodline in order to find the easiest or deadliest place to ensure success. As Exodus 20:5-6 indicates, demons can stay in a family as God will pull His blessing from the family to the third and fourth generation. Demons can continue because their authority is not revoked and God will not stop their activity until there is repentance. We see these sins continue without repentance in alcohol and drug abuse, sexual perversion, mental illness, and even premature death.

FAMILIAR SPIRITS

Familiar spirits are of two different types: 1. they are spirits that work with witches, psychics, or diviners (like tarot card readers) to give them supernatural information, and 2. spirits that stay in a family line and watch the family in order to set up patterns of sin and demonic possession.

Deuteronomy 18:10-11 states," there shall not be found among you…a consulter with familiar spirits," (KJV).

The familiar spirit can work through a person as Leviticus 20:27 states…"A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit," (KJV). Unger (1995) states that the Hebrew means "in whom there is a divining demon." This means that the medium can summon a demon to speak an answer through them when someone comes to them seeking spiritual guidance. Unger (1995) states that the familiar was considered a servant that could be summoned at any time and was considered to be in the family as it was familiar or close with members of the family it served.

Familiar spirits are demons that were thought to live in animals to protect witches (like a black cat) and give them supernatural words of guidance. Familiar spirits work with all those who seek to get supernatural information, like necromancers, mediums, witches, and psychics. These spirits give information about clients that walk into their offices, they give words of protection to witches to alert them to danger, and they give words of the future (mostly contrived) for those seeking psychics, as examples of their activity.

The second type of familiar spirit is one that stays in a family line and becomes "familiar" with the activities of that family. They do this in order to learn the weaknesses and sin areas of a family in order to attack each generation to get them wrapped into sin. This is why we see such things like alcoholism and child abuse traveling down family lines. The familiar spirits have studied the weaknesses in the family and learn the best strategies in order to get the new generation into bondage so that they cannot or will not come to the Lord.

A Biblical example would be the life of Abraham. Abraham lied to protect his wife by calling Sarah his sister in Genesis 20:1-2…"Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, 'She is my sister.' Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her." Next, we see Isaac doing the same thing in Genesis 26:7…"When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he (Isaac) said, 'She is my sister,' because he was afraid to say, 'She is my wife.' He thought, 'The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful." Finally, Jacob deceived Isaac to receive the blessing instead of Esau in Genesis chapter 27:18-19…"He (Jacob) went to his father (Isaac) and said,

‘My father.’ ‘Yes my son,’ he answered. ‘Who is it?’ Jacob said to his father, ‘I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing.’”

THE PURPOSES OF DEMONIC POSSESION

There are several reasons why demons seek to possess territory and people. First, the more that they possess, the more that the kingdom of darkness is advanced. If demons can take over a person, that one person can influence a hundred lives. If this person can intimidate, lie, manipulate, and seduce co-workers, friends, church members, and family members, he can spread a lot of misery and destruction.

On a large scale, demonic spirits can infiltrate hundreds of lives in a city and turn an entire area into a prostitution-drug haven. On an even larger scale, a ruling spirit in a city may draw thousands of possessed people, and then loose demons to seduce even more people in a city; the enemy can rule an entire city with active, unconfessed sin. This can even happen with entire countries being devoted to false gods, like Iran and Syria. Demons that rule entire countries can be involved in sending millions to hell. The more territory they possess, is the territory given to satan to reign.

The second reason for demonic possession is despair. Demons seek to steal, kill, and destroy like their master-satan. When a demon invades a life it wants to destroy this life, sometimes slowly and torturously. The person that is dominated by evil spirits slowly sees life deteriorating and loses more and more control of their freedom. Depending on the demon, the person may lose physical abilities, mental stability, and or spiritual growth, while sin increases, and mental torment increases. The person may sink deeper into despair by not being able to conquer their sin or disorder.

For example, a demon may bring cancer into the body that starts in the liver and spreads and brings more and more pain over time; or a person may start viewing pornography, become addicted to it and lose more and more control. The desire for more perverted pornography increases, and eventually the person may attack a woman to act out the pornography; or a young man may slip into schizophrenia after years of mental torment. Not only does the person suffer, but the family and loved ones suffer as well.

It is very difficult to watch a loved one suffer, especially if the suffering stretches over a long period of time. The loved ones suffer with the patient.

Many do suffer extensively, and even die, when people do not detect that evil spirits are present and causing the problem. People try everything in this known world to help, but you can't counsel a demon out, you can't surgically cut a demon out, and you cannot medicate a demon out. If a demon is present the only thing to stop it is the power of Jesus Christ. So, if the demon is present and not addressed, there will be more suffering. This takes a tremendous toll, spiritually and emotionally, on all involved.

Another reason for possession is that demons simply hate us. They hate our freedom and they hate the possibility that we can inherit eternal life with God while they are doomed to the lake of fire. They want all to suffer with them. Demons seek to live inside of us to control our will. If they can gain control then they will push us away from God and into the bondage of sin and death. Therefore, they are much more effective on the inside rather than the outside.

Finally, if satan can gain power over a person and get this person to do bizarre things in public, it can create fear and actually promote the worship of satan. In other words, where satan gains power he can also establish fear and intimidation. For example, when I went to help start a small church in Russia, I preached at a service and had an altar call at the end. People would get saved but still be afraid of the local witchdoctor or shaman. They believed that God loved them but they also believed that evil was very powerful and they were very afraid of it.

Local witchdoctors or shamans would curse people for money or to gain power over a community. The belief was that if the witchdoctor cursed you, you were either going to get a horrible disease or you may be struck dead. The witchdoctors really had powerful demons working through them and would cause great misery in an area. There would be stories of sickness when he cursed and healings when he reversed the curse.

So, many served the witchdoctor and his gods because they saw the power. There would be people who were possessed and tormented by demons in the community as warnings not to come against the witchdoctor and his gods. When people see supernatural power, however evil, they are influenced by it. Many might go to church but also give offerings to the witchdoctor so as not to make him angry and possibly curse them. These people would worship God and appease satan.

Satan will exert power overtly when he can to create fear and a lukewarm response to God. There is a danger of serving both God and satan and being

lukewarm, as Jesus said that He would spit us out of His mouth if we are lukewarm (Rev.3:16). Satan wants people to believe that he is more powerful. If he can convince them of this, he can then get people to serve him.

FACTORS RELATED TO POSSESSION

We know that some demons enter through abuse and some travel down generational lines so there really is nothing that a person may be doing wrong that leads to an evil spirit possessing them. However, in many cases our personality makeup and our behavior have a lot to do with allowing spirits to enter our lives.

The first factor is **morality**. The more a person is willing to sin and disobey God the greater the chance of demonic involvement. Obedience to God does give protection because we remain firmly under His covering. It is when we do things our way or against the will of God, that we walk out from beneath His covering and expose ourselves to evil attacks.

The second factor is **resistance**. There are some people that have great strength and can resist the attacks of the enemy. When a temptation comes, they have the strength to resist the plans of satan. The enemy will try to entice us to sin and he will create negative circumstances in our lives in order for us to turn from God and blame Him for the problems in our lives.

God does allow us to be tested in order to see if we have genuine faith. In the book of Job, satan did not believe that anyone would serve God unless they got something out of it. In other words, satan believed that if everything was taken from Job, he would no longer serve God because he wasn't getting any benefit from it. Job passed this difficult test and still had faith in God, although he lost everything, including his health. For many, when the test comes, they leave God quickly because they see no point in serving God: they aren't getting blessed anymore.

Tests will come to strengthen us as well. Romans 5:3-5 states that suffering leads to perseverance, perseverance leads to character, character leads to hope, and hope does not fail. In other words, difficult circumstances will lead to our spiritual growth and character development. For some, they see all suffering as bad and rebel against God the minute they don't get what they want. When they do this, they open themselves up to the lies of the enemy to begin working on them to drive them further from God.

Many people also have low resistance because of abuse issues and mental instability. They cannot handle stress very well and are very unstable emotionally. It is very difficult to resist evil when they are battling so many personal problems. In other words, they want to be moral but they do not have the resistance strength to maintain that morality. For example, a person may turn to alcohol in times of stress to help him calm down. He wants to be moral, he doesn't want to sin, but when under stress he doesn't have the resources to handle it and turns to alcohol for help. After the drinking episode the man may feel guilty and ashamed, but when a new stressful situation occurs he goes right back to alcohol.

The next area is **detection**. Most people are unaware of the presence of demons, especially at the beginning stages. If you are unaware of demons you cannot fight against what you do not believe is there. There are many reasons for demons going undetected: ignorance, sin, being deceived, being in union with them (like Satanists), and feeling unable to fight against them. The sooner you detect the presence of evil and fight against it, the better off you will be.

The final area is **going into a trance**. Goodman (1988) found in her studies that a person going into a trance was the doorway to possession. A trance is an altered state of consciousness. In this altered state of consciousness, there is an extreme focus on something and everything else is blocked out (as in hypnosis and Buddhist meditation). Another aspect of trance is when the person enters an altered state of consciousness there is an attempt for the self to disappear to let a foreign entity enter. In many cultures during their religious ceremonies the leaders ask their gods (or dead relatives) to enter them and speak words of instruction or encouragement to the community. Their ceremonies involve the leader going into a trance to allow the god (or dead person) to enter them.

There are many ways to go into a trance. A person may go under hypnosis or practice transcendental meditation. In transcendental meditation, the object of the person meditating is to completely empty the mind and the self, and become one with the universe. Another way to go into a trance is through heavy alcohol and drug use.

In heavy alcohol and drug use, a person is in an altered state of consciousness; he is not in his rational mind. When intoxicated, the person doesn't think or act the same. He may have strange thoughts and act on them, which he would never do while sober. When sober, he may be shy,

respectful of women, and very emotionally in control. When drunk, he may be loud, obnoxious, and may try to proposition a married woman.

When people abuse substances for a long period of time they open themselves up to a demonic spirit to possess them because they cannot detect the presence of the demon and cannot fight it off. The demon can enter because the person is in sin, and the door is open. In fact, the word witchcraft in Galatians 5:20 is the Greek word for pharmacy (pharmakeia). In other words, witchcraft is drug use (alcohol is a drug).

The final way to enter an altered state of consciousness is through dissociation. Dissociation is when the mind splits off from what is currently happening. For example, a child that is being sexually abused may describe floating up to the ceiling and watching the abuse happening to him. Part of him is not in the body, as he is blocking out the pain by mentally leaving. For some, they had to dissociate many times because of emotional pain and abuse. As they grow older they may use dissociation whenever they feel threatened or under stress. It becomes a lifestyle for some, and mixed with drug abuse, is a deadly combination. They never learn to live in reality well, and go into altered states of consciousness as a coping mechanism.

SYMPTOMS OF DEMONIC POSSESSION

Many have tried over the centuries to come up with exact symptom categories in order to correctly diagnose demonic possession. Most attempts have not worked out too well for a variety of reasons. First, not every possessed person exhibits the same symptoms. Some people have severe symptoms, others do not. In relation to this, there are virtually millions of individual combinations of demonic activity. A person may have 1 demon, another 50, and another 3,000. Not only that, there are numerous types of demons that have different levels of power, authority, and sin areas that they address.

Secondly, there are various depths of possession, and usually, the more complete the possession, the greater the symptoms of disturbance. But this is not always the case. A relatively minor demon, with a small degree of possession, may cause great havoc around it. For example, one demon that haunts a house may possess no one but may throw dishes, manifest visibly to frighten children, and walk up and down the halls at night to unnerve the family.

Finally, many symptoms that look like demonic possession are really

symptoms of mental illness. For example, schizophrenia is a devastating illness that has many strange and bizarre symptoms, which include bizarre hallucinations (seeing demons coming at them) strange sensory experiences (feeling that bugs are growing in their body), hearing voices telling them they are damned to hell, and bizarre delusions (believing that neighbors are looking into their brain and stealing their thoughts). Many people, especially hundreds of years ago, saw these symptoms as automatic signs of demonic possession. Fortunately, we have learned much since then.

Demons can mimic mental illness and create symptoms that look like mental illness to disguise their presence. In addition, some demons have the power to create abnormal brain conditions: the abnormality shows up on the x-ray, but the root cause, the demon, does not show up on the x-ray. Great care must be used in attempting to diagnose demon possession as great harm may come to misdiagnosing someone as possessed, when in fact they are suffering from an actual mental or physical disorder.

If a person is deemed to be possessed (when in reality they are not) and an exorcism is prescribed, the client may not get any better. When the symptoms refuse to subside, the client may feel that God does not love him, that he is weak, and can even become worse. In such cases, an exorcism can instill fear that the demons have unlimited power over him, and he may give up trying to get better, or even worse, commit suicide.

On the other hand, if someone is demon possessed, no amount of medications or counseling will permanently change the condition. If a demon is the cause of a disease or a mental problem, the demon must be cast out for a cure to take place. Deliverances (exorcisms) can be an effective healing prayer that can benefit those suffering under demonic activity.

There are basically two categories of demonic possession symptoms. The first is external signs. External signs are the behaviors that others notice. They are directly observable and have been well documented in the past. For example, T. K. Oesterreich (1930) revealed the following case with observable symptoms:

"Suddenly the little girl was tossed convulsively hither and thither in the bed, and this lasted seven weeks; after which suddenly a quite course man's voice spoke diabolically through the mouth of this eight-year-old child. She could not be brought back to life, for every time the demoniac voice resisted, uttered maledictions, cursed our Savior and prayer… Often she tried with a diabolical face to beat her father and mother and the onlookers, or else she insulted them, which was not at all in accordance with her character. "

The list for external signs should not be taken as perfect, as many mental-physical conditions may mimic possession states. In addition, one should never base whether or not a person is possessed by these symptoms only. The only real test of whether an evil spirit is present or not is through the gift of discernment of spirits (1 Cor. 12:10). This gift from the Holy Spirit reveals whether or not a demon is present in a person, building, or area. In other words, God tells you the evil spirit is there. This is important as someone may have several signs of possession, but in actuality it is a mental disorder. Or, a person may have minimal signs of possession as the evil spirit disguises its presence very well.

I need to digress for a brief moment on the topic of the mind and mental illness before we look at the symptoms of demon possession. The mind is very powerful and can be very flexible in response to trauma or psychological pain. For many, the best way to deal with pain in the short-term is find a way to block it. Repression is completely forgetting a painful event. The memory is there but the person becomes totally unaware of it. This provides peace for a while, but the memory will eventually surface later.

Another way to deal with trauma is to use suppression. Suppression means that you know the trauma is there, you just don't want to focus on it or talk about because of fear of losing your mind. Dissociation has been briefly touched on before, but this is a splitting off from consciousness to ward off external pain that keeps the event from being integrated into consciousness. This is the child that leaves his body when the abuse starts and when the abuse is done, reconnects to his body. Dissociation allows you to endure the pain, but not heal it. In fact, the mind is so powerful that it can continue to dissociate in the face of trauma into another person (Freud, 1967; Freud, 1961; Woody & Bowers, 1994).

In Dissociative Identity Disorder-DID (formerly Multiple Personality Disorder) there are 2 or more personalities inside the same person (I have seen up to 20 personalities and the literature has reported over 100). This occurs through chronic, unrelenting, horrific child abuse. The person constantly dissociates under abuse until they create another personality for the abuse to happen to.

Finally, a person may deal with trauma through converting the pain to the body. For example, a woman was brought into counseling because her legs were paralyzed but the doctors could find nothing wrong with her legs. In therapy, it was discovered that she had repressed a memory that her

stepfather had raped her when she was a teenager. One day, she was walking across a college campus and her legs gave out. In therapy, it was discovered that she looked over and saw a man that looked like her stepfather and went unconscious. In other words, she converted the psychological pain into her body so that she didn't have to face it. There is actually a Conversion Disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (APA, 2000).

This all points to the amazing ability of the mind to cope with stress that has nothing to do with demon possession. Some of these disorders may look strange or bizarre but they are trauma based, not demon based. For example, you could believe leg paralysis may look like demon involvement as there is nothing medically wrong with the legs, but in reality it is trauma based.

EXTERNAL SYMPTOMS OF DEMON POSSESSION

Here are some external symptoms listed in the literature on demon possession, found in Amorth (1999), Goodman (1988), Martin (1992), Oesterreich (1930), Koch (1969), and Hammond (1973). Many of these symptoms happen while in a trance state or when the demon takes control of the body:

- Superhuman strength, beyond the age and capability of the person (an 8 year old girl being able to fight off 5 men). This can also happen under extreme stress and in an extreme mental crisis.

- Supernatural knowledge beyond the years of the person (a person knowing facts about ancient history without ever studying it).

- Knowing other languages without ever studying them.

- Severe reactions to holy things, such as churches, communion, or the cross. The person may scream, be unable to touch the cross, curse, or

blaspheme the holy item. Extreme or distorted movements or vocal outbursts can be seen in Tourette's Disorder.

- A different voice coming out of a person, like an older male voice coming out of a female child. The voice of an evil spirit frequently sounds abnormal or strange. The only way to describe it is unearthly, not male or female, frightening, and menacing (this may happen in Multiple Personality Disorder or otherwise known as Dissociative Identity Disorder-DID).

- Extreme body contortions. For example, being able to lie for 12 hours with one arm extended, one foot behind the back-almost touching the back of the head, and the face turned almost completely around. The muscles are usually rigid and almost impossible to flex or change. The subject may be in a trance and not be able to respond. This can be seen in Catatonic Schizophrenia and in certain physical movement disorders.

- Horrible-foul breath. Not just bad breath, as it flows through the person and can be smelled a great distance away. It is the evil breath of the demon you sense.

- Extreme fits of violence and rage that may go on for hours. This is noteworthy especially if it is completely opposite of the subject's personality. For example, a young girl trying to scratch out her grandmothers' eyes and this is completely foreign to the relationship. You must look to see if the person is still there and whether or not the demon has taken over. Violent rages may occur in a variety of mental conditions and physical conditions, such as Bipolar Disorder, Impulse Control Disorders, and Schizophrenia.

- Features changing rapidly. This means that you may see many facial features change with extreme rapidity, from a male to female, old to young, grimace to laughter, and then back again. You may also see the faces of the demons as well.

- Eating and drinking repulsive things like feces, bugs, blood, human flesh, and urine (can be seen in severe stages of eating disorders and Pica in children). Some adults also become addicted to eating strange things like chalk and string.

- A foul stench coming out of the body that is more than just body odor. The odor is simply beyond a human smell.

- Powerful psychomotor agitation. Pacing, jumping, and not being able to sit still for hours at a time. This must be combined with some other bizarre behavior, such as contorting the body, cursing God constantly, or dwelling on demon voices. There can also be strange body movements like slithering on the ground like a snake or crawling like an insect. For children, this can also be seen in Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, or even severe forms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

- Complete change in personality that is rapid in onset, but yet changes back again. This has often been confused with Multiple Personality Disorder (or DID-Dissociative Identity Disorder). In DID there are several personalities that can move back and forth inside a person. Careful examination by a professional must be made.

- Trying to harm the self or commit suicide, especially with religious objects. This can happen in a wide variety of disorders, like Major Depression, Borderline Personality Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Anxiety Disorders, and Schizophrenia.

- Random burning or extreme pain in multiple areas of the body, with no diagnosed physical cause (this can also happen with Psychosomatic disorders-Somatoform Disorders, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder).

- Being able to move objects without touching them. For example, a possessed person being able to move furniture in another room by command.

- In relation to external signs there are external events that may accompany the presence of an evil spirit. When an evil spirit seeks to possess a person or house there may be knocking sounds, sacred objects may be thrown off walls, an evil smell may enter a home or room that you cannot get rid of, and demon faces may appear in mirrors or windows. In addition, there may be house problems like continuous electrical or plumbing problems but there is no concrete reason to be found, parts of the house may be ice cold even though the heat is turned on, furniture may move, and there may be children getting continuously sick. Also, look for constant personal accidents, like tripping and spilling hot fluids on self. These signs usually happen at the beginning phases of a possession.

INTERNAL SYMPTOMS OF DEMON POSSESSION

The second type of symptoms of demon possession is the internal symptoms. These are symptoms that the client experiences internally that we cannot observe. They are personal experiences that only they can feel. Experiences

described by those possessed are:

- Hearing demons speak to them (voices are heard in psychotic disorders like Schizophrenia, Dementia, Delirium, & DID as examples). This voice (or voices) may argue with them, belittle them, curse at them, or say obscene things to them.
- Feeling like thoughts are being inserted into their minds that are perverse, violent, or blasphemous (this can happen in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder as examples).
- Feeling pushed or compelled to do something that they do not want to do (Addictions, many other disorders).
- Feeling a weight upon them that will not lift (Depression).
- Feeling darkness all around, even on bright sunny days (Depression).
- There are strange sensations that people describe as happening to them. Some examples are feeling that their memories are being eaten, feeling like they are being swallowed up, feeling like they are disappearing and some feeling like they are unable to control being conscious anymore (this may happen in numerous psychological disorders like Depersonalization Disorder).
- Feeling a foreign being enter them (this can also happen in Schizophrenia, for example).
- Feeling out of control of emotions, like the emotion erupts and they cannot start or stop it (many mental disorders like Borderline Personality Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, and Impulse Control Disorders). Some state that they are in a trance and do not remember the emotional state they were in.
- There are times when the person is conscious of the demons in extreme possessed states and there are times when the person remembers nothing when the demons take over. For example, when the subject is in a normal state they may be repulsed at eating bugs. However, when the demons take over and they begin to eat bugs, they may remember nothing of the incident afterwards when back in a normal state. Another may report remembering that she ate the bugs, but that the demons were in control and she felt like she was hiding in a dark room watching it, but did not experience it and did not have any control over it.

DETECTING EVIL SPIRITS

The only sure way to know if an evil spirit is present is through the gift of discernment of spirits (1 Cor.12: 10). This gift will reveal whether a demon is present or not (this gift is broader than this but for this discussion only how it reveals evil will be covered). The Holy Spirit will reveal evil to you through vision, hearing, taste, touch, or smell.

In the vision sense, The Holy Spirit may show you the real evil spirit inside the person or give you a vision of it symbolically. For instance, you may see the person with a snake wrapped around him. The common symbols that God uses to reveal the presence of evil are:

- **Black or grey cloud** (white symbolizes God): Jude 12; Rev.14:14
- **Cloaked or hooded figure**
- **Dragon**: Rev.12:7; 20:2
- **Flies**: Ex.8:24
- **Fox**: Ezek. 13:3-4; Luke 13:32
- **Frog**: Rev.16:13
- **Goat**: Ex.23:19; Prov.30:29-31; Dan.8:5
- **Lion**: 1 Peter 5:8
- **Locust**: Joel 1:4
- **Moth**: Is.50:9; James 5:2
- **Owl**: Is.13:21
- **Person**: A familiar spirit may appear as a family member or a friend in a dream (especially generational spirits). There will usually be something wrong in the person's appearance as a tip-off that this is a demonic spirit. For example, the nose may be extremely long, the eyes may have flames, or the walk may be distorted.
- **Pig**: Matt.8:31
- **Raven**: Lev. 11:13-15; Prov.30:17
- **Scorpion**: Rev.9:10
- **Skeleton talking or moving (spirit of witchcraft; spirit of death)**
- **Snake (lizard)**: Gen. 3:1-7; Luke 10:19
- **Spider**: Is. 59:5-6
- **Vulture**: Prov.30:17; Matt.24:28

In addition to vision, people can hear demons talk. For example, in an exorcism, one person may be able to hear the demon speak and others may not hear it because the voice is heard by the Holy Spirit (unless it speaks through the person's vocal cords). Others can feel the presence of evil. They may feel sick, uncomfortable, or unclean if evil is present. Others can smell the presence of demons as demons do have a foul odor. The most infrequent sense used to detect evil is taste. However, I have met 2 people that had a foul taste in their mouth when casting a spirit out of someone, and when the demon the left the foul taste left as well.

In fact one 16 year old girl that I saw in the hospital had been there for 7 days and the doctor could not find anything wrong with her. She had stomach pain and back pain but nothing showed up on the tests. When I said a simple prayer for her I thanked her for letting me visit and I left. Nothing really seemed to happen. However, about 2 hours later her mother called me and said that not long after I left her daughter threw up and 5 pounds of awful smelling green material and she instantly felt better. She also said that she had had a foul taste in her mouth that she could not get rid of, not even with gum or breath mints. After she threw up the foul taste left her and she was released from the hospital later that evening.

CHAPTER 5
DEMON CLASSIFICATION

The kingdom of darkness is organized like an army, and there are different levels of power and authority. There are specific demonic spirits mentioned in the Bible and they are considered the generals or the leaders of their divisions. Each division leader arranges an attack based on the assigned area given to them. For example, some specifically attack the body, the mind or the spirit. Others have a more generalized approach that uses several strategies to attack a church, like the python spirit (see also Curtis & Curtis, 1988; Robeson, 2000).

The demons mentioned in the Bible are identified by their function and not a personal name. For example, Jesus mentions a deaf and mute (dumb) spirit because of its attack on the physical body, specifically the ear and mouth (Mark 9:25). The demons listed here have the leader mentioned first, and the lesser spirits listed underneath.

In demonic possession, there are many different strategies that they use in order to bring about the destruction of a human being. For some, there is one ruling spirit or strongman, with a family of lesser spirits. For others there may be several strongmen that are immensely powerful.

It does make a difference how the demons are structured as their structure will determine how to go about an exorcism. For example, in some cases where there is one ruling spirit and several large lieutenants, God may have you go after the lesser spirits first and then go after the more powerful spirits later (see figure 5). This may be reversed where God may have you go after the main spirit first and the weaker spirits will leave rather quickly because the boss or the main authority is gone. In the case where there is one strongman surrounded by many weaker spirits, God may have you go after the weakest link and then go after the strongman (see figure 5).

It is important to find out which demonic powers are present, what their functions are, and what structure they operate by. Dismantling the system is of the utmost importance and God has the perfect way to do this. Just going in and casting out whatever spirits you can think of may work occasionally, but will not be quite as effective overall as knowing what is there and what to

do about it.

LYING/DECEIVING SPIRITS: 1 Kings 22:23: “So now the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours.” 1 Timothy 4:1: “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”

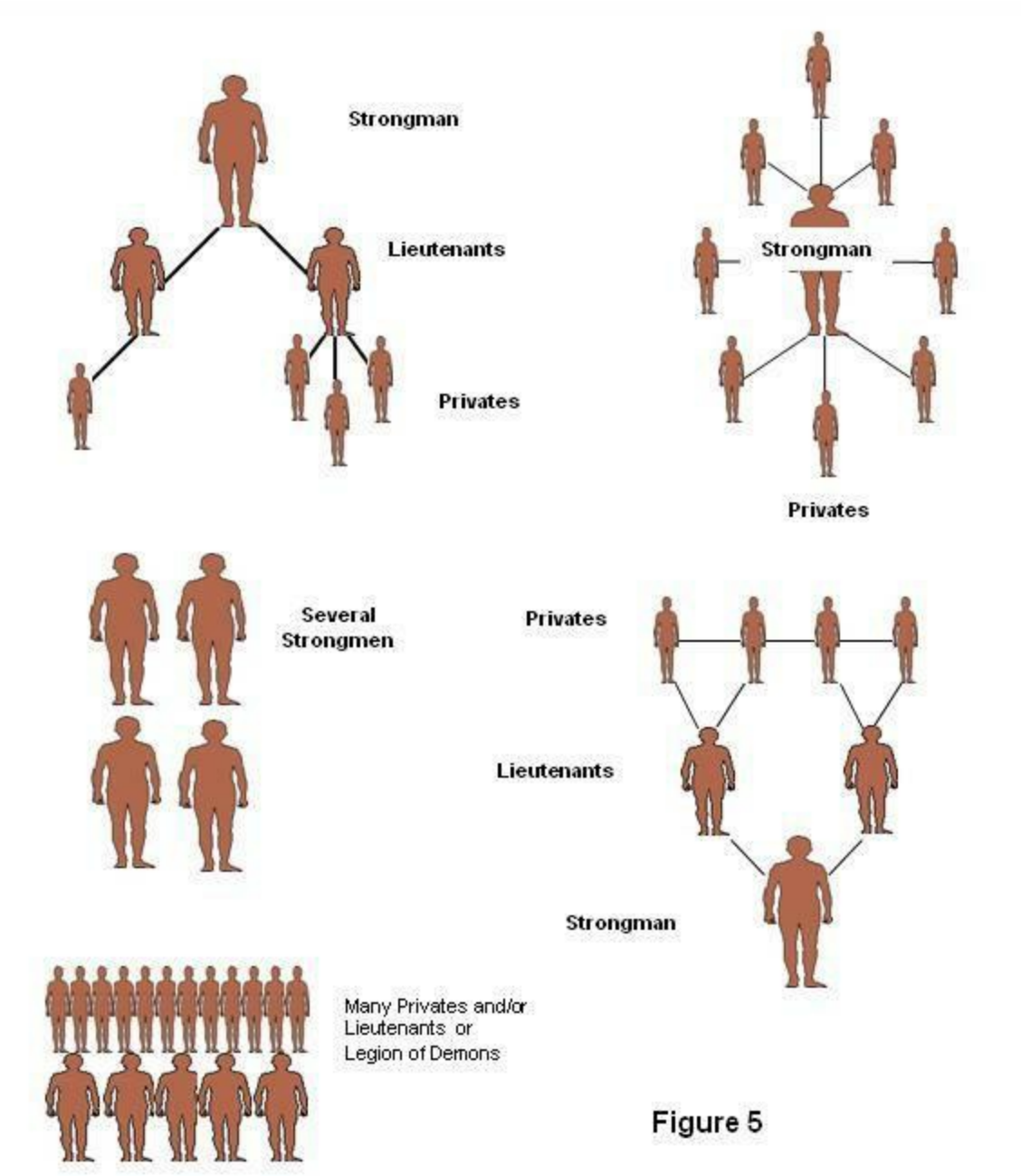

Figure 5

These spirits are usually the first to work on people and serve as

gatekeepers to other demons. These spirits work well on weak-minded and emotional people, because they do not know how to defend themselves against the lies of the enemy. Lying spirits work on people very young in life to get them into sin so that other demons may enter. Their tactics are to hide beneath the radar and work very slowly upon a person.

People that are very emotional are sometimes quick in making decisions. They do not reason very effectively and tend to make quick, impulsive decisions. Lying spirits seek these people out because they are more likely to hear the lie and accept it immediately without first evaluating it. One of the ways to defeat a lying spirit is that once the demon speaks the lie, we can think about the truth, search the Scriptures, and evaluate its validity. We can then reject the lie after thinking it through. Emotional people do not do this; they are more likely to hear the lie and if it sounds good, they will act on it.

Lying spirits can work through false statements and are very convincing. Lying spirits try to get you to stray from the truth so that you will get conned into a trap. Deceiving spirits seek to make someone who is wrong appear to be right. Satan is a master at deception and can even make himself look like a holy angel (2 Cor.11:14). The deceiving spirit says that there is nothing wrong with abortion since it is not a child; the sexually perverse are born that way so you never have to change (even if you like to have sex with dead people); stealing from the rich really isn't stealing because they can afford it.

Deceiving spirits also work on the insecure and traumatized. Insecure people don't trust themselves or their decisions. For the traumatized, after someone is raped, the deceiving spirits come in and tell the person that the abuse was their fault, that God wanted them to be abused, and that now they are filthy and no one will love them anymore. Deceiving spirits seek to wrap the person in lies so that they will deteriorate mentally and spiritually.

The spirits that are underneath the lying/deceiving spirits are:

- Confusion

- Seducing spirits/Beguiling spirits

- Delusions
- False Doctrine
- False Prophesy
- Gossip-slander
- Superstitious spirits
- Self-deception (demons get person to misinterpret their own motives and behavior)

SPIRIT OF HAUGHTINESS/LEVIATHAN: Proverbs 16:18:"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." Job 41:34:"He (Leviathan) looks down on all that are haughty; he is king over all that are proud."

The main reason that satan fell was that he was full of pride, he wanted to be God, and he tried to overthrow God. Pride is very dangerous as it originated in satan and he knows its power more than anyone. These demons can target anyone but they generally go after several specific types of people.

The first type is those that rise in power. Most people, who rise in position and/or status in a church, business, or community, will battle spirits of pride. When you rise in power you gain more authority and respect; people treat you differently. If one is not careful the sprits can get you to believe that God didn't get you there, you did, because you are so wonderful and talented. Pretty soon you begin to slowly compliment yourself and leave God out of the picture. Pride blinds you to your weaknesses and gets you to believe that you are stronger than you really are. Usually, when the spirits of pride attack,

you are more prone to judge others, go easy on your own mistakes, look down on others, become more easily angered, and be more willing to believe that you are above the law and can sin when you want to because you are so valuable and needed by God and the church. James warns us that where there is selfish ambition, even in a church, every type of evil can be loosed…"For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice," (James 3:16).

This is especially dangerous for new converts who are not mature enough to handle power, but because of friendships, lack of leadership in a church, or campaigning for the position, those that cannot handle the power are given too much power. Paul warns of this in establishing leaders in the church in 1 Timothy 3:6…"He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil."

The second type is those already in leadership positions. Satan desires to bring any good leader down because it can affect an entire church if one leader falls. The leader will always have to battle spirits of pride because pride is directly opposite of what the Lord wants. The Bible teaches that humility is a key to growth in the Lord…"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted," (Luke 14:11). It is very hard for leaders to be humble as they are in positions of power and that is why they are susceptible to a spirit of pride.

The final type is those that have been abused and beaten down as children. When children are abused they are treated as if their thoughts, feelings, and even their lives do not matter. They are treated as if they do not exist. Then, when these children get older and get saved they are taught to be humble. However, when you are humble you put others first and you are called to deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23). To someone that was abused this sounds like being put back into the abusive situation of their past.

Many fight against this and fight to be heard. They vow never to lose their voices again and become very combative, pushy, and seek to rise to the top. This is where the spirit of pride wants to attack. It uses the anger that the victim has and turns it into an "I'll get you before you get me" attitude.
Demons that work underneath the spirit of haughtiness/Leviathan are:

- Self-righteousness/ Self-love (Narcissism)

- Accusation
- Perfection
- Contention
- Anger
- Competition
- Pride-Arrogant
- Stubborn

SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS: Isaiah 61:3:"And provide for those who grieve in Zion-to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair (fainting-NAS; heaviness-KJV).

The spirit of heaviness appears to attack two types of people the most. The first are those who are in the music ministry, choir ministry, and praise and worship. This spirit seeks to hinder the worship of God by wearing down those who lead praise and worship.

The second type of person that is affected by the spirit of heaviness is the extremely sensitive. These people get their feelings hurt very easily and tend to structure information as if nothing will work out in the future, that people

don’t like them very much, and they are aren’t very good people. They may do well but one wrong look from a friend, one negative comment from a boss, or an argument with a spouse may lead them to a depressed mood. This spirit seeks these types of people to increase the depressed mood, and ultimately lead to a clinical depression, and then suicide.

These spirits frequently start as an oppressive feeling that seems to make everything worse. If you are feeling a little down, these spirits try to make you feel really down. These spirits try to make a person lose hope which is a direct attack on their faith. If faith is attacked all sorts of negative outcomes are possible.

The spirits that work underneath the spirit of heaviness are:

- Depression
- Fatigue
- Hopelessness
- Suicide
- Grief
- Rejection
- Defeat-Giving Up

- Self-Pity

SPIRIT OF FEAR: II Timothy 1:7:"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

The spirit of fear invades every area of our lives. There are over 400 phobias, from the fear of grass, the fear of cows, bridges, water, closed in spaces, open spaces, snakes, spiders, elevators, and so on. Fear is the direct opposite of faith. The more fear you have-the less faith you will have, and vice versa. If you have fear in one area you cannot be free in that area. Many people have numerous fears and thus are restricted in their spiritual growth. Fear says "I can't" but faith says "I can."

For example if you have a fear of public speaking you can't teach or preach in freedom. If you are afraid of social situations (social phobia) you cannot make friends easily or work in ministries where there is a lot of human interaction. If you fear rejection you won't take risks in launching new ministries or ideas.

The greatest by-product of fear that harms us is worry. Worry is fear based, in that you fear that something bad may happen and that you cannot control the outcome. Worry is literally thinking about something over and over (like spinning in a circle), without a resolution. You cannot relax and trust that God is in control and will work everything out. We are commanded not to worry (Luke 12:22-34), so obviously demons will do everything possible to try to get us to worry.

The spirits that work underneath the spirit of fear:

- Anxiety
- Worry
- Obsessions
- Paranoia
- Indecision-Confusion
- Phobias-fear of anything
- Rejection
- Panic

SPIRIT OF SLUMBER/STUPOR: Romans 11:8:"God gave them a

spirit of stupor, eyes so that they could not see and ears so that they could not hear, to this very day."

The spirit of slumber attacks your energy and your desire to do spiritual things. Individuals may report falling asleep reading the Bible, feeling no energy to go to church, and falling asleep while praying. This spirit makes you feel tired all the time and you may even feel preoccupied with sleep and wanting to rest.

This spirit can also attack the mind. Many people have described the attack of this spirit as eating their memories as they can't remember anything anymore, their mind feels like it is going dark, and they cannot put thoughts together. This spirit can create a lethargy that if unchecked, can lead to severe emotional and physical problems. Some have described chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia with the above symptoms.

Spirits that work underneath the spirit of slumber:

- Fatigue
- Apathy-Lethargy
- Passivity
- Depression
- Mind Darkness
- Withdrawal
- Unable to Grasp Scripture: Mind-Binding spirit

DEAF AND MUTE (DUMB) SPIRIT: Mark 9:25:"When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, He rebuked the evil spirit. 'You deaf and mute spirit,' He said, 'I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

The deaf and dumb spirit attacks more than the ears and mouth. In Mark 9:17-29, the boy possessed by this spirit had many other symptoms. For example, it seizes him and throws him to the ground (v.18), foams at the mouth (v.18), gnashes his teeth (v.18), becomes rigid (v.18), threw him into convulsions (v20), rolled around (v.20), tried to kill him by throwing him into the fire or water (v.22), and convulsed him violently when coming out (26). This spirit appears to attack the brain centers that control speech, movement, and hearing.

Spirits that are underneath the deaf and dumb spirit are:

- Murder
- Seizures/Convulsions/Epilepsy
- Autism
- Tourette's Disorder
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Other Neurological Functions
- Asperger's Disorder
- TMJ

SPIRIT OF INFIRMITY: Luke 13:11-12:"And a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, He called her forward and said to her, 'Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."

This spirit attacks the body and can do damage anywhere. Demons do inflict diseases on us. Satan was given authority to do this to Job, and the disease was either elephantiasis, or leprosy. So, the woman in Luke 13 had a demon lodged in her back, and with Job, satan created a life-threatening disease. The range of demonic torment in the body is endless.
Spirits that work underneath the spirit of infirmity:

- All demons that cause pain, deterioration, and dysfunction in the body.

SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST: I John 4:3:"But every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world."

The antichrist spirit has several entry points. First, it moves inside anger and this can happen at any age. It is the strongest when it can get inside a youth who has a history of rebellion. In many cases, those who are violent, in gangs, and who enjoy abusing others are susceptible to the antichrist spirit. It instills anger, primarily out of hatred for all things good, and all things that represent God.

The second type of person it works on is those who are atheists and those from other religions that hate Christianity. They deny that there is only one way to God, through Jesus Christ, they deny the Word of God, and deny the deity of Christ.

The antichrist spirit is wrapped in hatred. In hates Christians, it hates God,

and it hates anything righteous and holy. It builds on long-term bitterness and resentment, and this spirit works on children and teens that have been abused for long periods of time because in many instances they have much unresolved anger issues. The antichrist spirit pushes people towards violence and rage and it works to stop the gospel through threats and intimidation. These spirits can be dangerous and in deliverances can become extremely violent. Watch for political movements against Biblical morals and Biblical symbols.
Spirits that work underneath the antichrist spirit are:

- Rebellion
- Hatred
- Violence
- Humanism-Atheism
- Denial of Christ
- Hatred of Christians
- Persecution of Christians

SPIRIT OF BONDAGE: Romans 8:15:"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship."

The spirit of bondage is mainly behind all the addictions that we face. This spirit sometimes will use a lying or seducing spirit to get someone to sin and then the spirit of bondage comes in and wraps them into the sin until they can't get out. They really become slaves to the addiction.

The spirit of bondage narrows your focus so that you believe that you need that addiction. It also convinces you that there will be no repercussions for that addiction as well. Once a person is firmly into the sin, the spirit begins to torment them mentally about the addiction until that is all they dwell on.

The spirit of bondage will blind them to the health risks, the harm it is causing others, and the power it has over them. In other words, the mind is wrapped in bondage as much as anything else. This spirit will increase cravings and set up conditions to use if they stay away from the addiction for a period of time. As one addict explained it to me, "When I was drinking all I thought about was quitting and when I quit drinking, all I thought about was going back to drinking." There is little internal peace when a spirit of bondage is present.

Spirits that work underneath the spirit of bondage:

- Addictions
- Cravings
- Compulsions
- Obsessions
- Lying and Seducing spirits

- Tormenting spirits

PERVERSE SPIRIT (DIZZINESS): Isaiah 19:14:"The Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit."

The perverse spirit has invaded every area of our society. Pornography has skyrocketed, teen sex is rampant, adultery is all too common, and sexually transmitted diseases are increasing every year. This spirit operates very freely in America as what was once considered wrong, sinful, or distasteful, is now acceptable and encouraged in mainstream America.

Sex is powerful. Even without demonic spirits, sex is difficult to master, especially when it is advertised and promoted everywhere. The perverse demons seek to stretch society to accept all sex as normal, no matter what. But, Paul tells us that sex is so dangerous that sexual sin brings harm to our bodies…"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body," (1 Cor.6:18). I believe that sexual sins may open people up to physical diseases and spirits of infirmity.

Perverse spirits work through offenders to attach themselves to victims, as sex brings two into one…"Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, 'The two will become one flesh,'" (1 Cor. 6:16). Perverse spirits work with spirits of bondage to get people addicted to pornography and sexual perversions, such as pedophilia. Perverse spirits work with lying and seducing spirits to entice people into sex for pleasure only. Perverse spirits work with the antichrist spirit to use sex as a political weapon to promote anti-Christian causes, and works with teens as a way to break the rules of society in anger. Perverse spirits can even shape the beliefs of people. For example when a perverse spirit enters a person and entices a person to participate in immoral sex, the person will turn against Christianity because it states that the perversion is wrong. In order to continue in the sin one must get rid of all influences speaking against it.

Perverse spirits work on men and women differently. Generally, perverse spirits entice the mind of men and work on the heart of women. Perverse spirits work on desire, and this is expressed differently in men and women. Once a perverse spirit comes into a person they are difficult to get rid of. And, when delivered, there are many cases where they go back to the

perversion because of the nature of the power of sex. In many deliverances a perverse demon will try to choke the person when it is coming out.
Spirits that work underneath perverse spirits:

- Sexual perversions of all kinds.
- Fantasy
- Spirits of Bondage
- Incubus/Succubus spirits
- Pornography
- Fetish
- Sexual Obsession

SPIRIT OF WHOREDOMS (PROSTITUTION): Hosea 4:12…"A spirit of prostitution leads them astray; they are unfaithful to their God."

The spirit of prostitution is about sexual prostitution, but that is not all. It is a spirit that seeks to turn you away from God and lust after anything else, especially false gods and goddesses. It is a spirit of idol worship and an idol is anything you give more time, love, and attention to, other than God. This can be money, sports, video games, rock music, television, and so on.

This spirit starts very subtly and tries to get a person to enjoy something

and then tries to increase time and interest in that activity. After a foothold is established it seeks to make this activity dominate his life at whatever level it can. This spirit does work well with the spirit of bondage to create addictions. However, this spirit tries to get us to worship other things that we might not readily identify as an addiction, like television. The primary attack of this demon is to create a desire for something and then blind them to the negative effects it is having upon the person.

The ultimate prostitution is spiritual prostitution, and this is people going after other gods. When God dealt with Israel in the book of Hosea, He talked about His relationship with Israel in marital terms, as in Hosea 2:1-3…"'Say of your brothers, 'My people, and of your sisters, 'My loved one.' 'Rebuke your mother, rebuke her, for she is not My wife, and I am not her husband. Let her remove her adulterous look from her face and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts." When Israel was promised to be restored, God said…"'In that day,' declares the Lord, 'you will call Me 'my husband'; you will no longer call Me 'my Master.'"

God takes His relationship with us very seriously and when Israel strayed from God, He called it adultery…"I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries," (Jer.3:8). This spirit seeks to drag people away from God and into cults so that they fall into sin and death. This spirit works at two powerful levels: it works to draw people to cults, and it works to create idols within us.

Spirits that work with the spirit of prostitution:

- Adultery
- Cult
- Idol worship
- Lust-Cravings

- Indecision

- Unfaithfulness

- Bondage-addictions

SPIRIT OF JEALOUSY/GREED: Col.3:5:"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry." Song of Solomon 8:6…"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave."

The spirit of jealousy can never be satisfied. It either works on people to mistrust others or to mistrust themselves. Jealousy cannot be happy for others, and desires what others have. The jealous spirit works powerfully against insecure people. Insecure people cannot trust that others will treat them well. Insecure people believe that either all people will hurt them because they are evil or that they are unlovable so others will eventually leave them and find someone better.

One of the roots to jealousy is the spirit of bitterness. When people go through many hurts in life they can begin to resent the success of others. In childhood, if one is poor or looked down on by others, he can become bitter of others more popular than him. If this continues, resentment and jealousy develop. Another pathway of the spirit of jealousy is through the spirit of rejection. If a person is rejected long enough she begins to believe that people leaving is natural or normal. If someone shows romantic interest in her, she may try to control him, follow him, and keep him from others, believing that he will find someone better and leave her.

The spirit of jealousy can also work with the rich if they have a lust for power or want to keep others from taking their power. In other words, mistrust, fear, bitterness, and rejection all fuel the jealousy spirit, and they can create insecurity in all people in any social class. The jealous spirit

usually has a spirit of anger with it, and paranoia is an extremely dangerous companion.
Spirits that work underneath the jealous spirit:

- Revenge
- Hate/rage
- Bitterness
- Paranoia
- Rejection
- Disunity/Strife
- Competition
- Covetousness

SPIRITS OF OPPRESSION: Acts 10:38:"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him."

Spirits of oppression mainly work on the outside and weigh down upon the person, then torment through temptation, and create external situations to lead to defeat and failure. Spirits of oppression may wear down the body, the mind, or the spirit. Many people describe oppressive spirits as feeling burdened, feeling a large weight on their shoulders, feeling fatigued, and unable to break out of a depression. Oppressive spirits usually weigh the person down until they give up in some area of their life and serve as a gateway for larger spirits to come in. They are usually the easiest to get rid of because they have not gotten a firm foothold within the person.
Spirits that work underneath the oppressive spirits:

- Excessive guilt
- Self-hatred
- Fatigue
- Depression
- Defeat
- Tormenting spirits

SPIRIT OF DESTRUCTION: Revelation 9:11:"They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abbadon, and in

Greek, Apollyon."

The demon of destruction was over demons that were loosed to torture humans for 5 months. This demon is in charge of releasing tormenting spirits and is a very violent, powerful spirit.

Spirits that work underneath the spirit of destruction:

- Tormenting spirits
- Spirits of Torture

FAMILIAR SPIRITS: Leviticus 19:31:"Regard not them that have familiar spirits…"

Familiar spirits either travel down the family line looking to exacerbate family sin areas, or they become attached to those working in witchcraft. Familiar spirits work with witches, psychics, and mediums, those that work in divination, those that contact the dead, and those that practice Satanism and other false religions. Familiar spirits are very dangerous as they usually have gained great power in peoples' lives through permission to be there. In other words, they have the right to be there and exercise their might extensively.

In many cases a familiar spirit can move into a person through playing divination games, such as ouija boards. He does not have to be a practicing Satanist or a New Age psychic to loose familiar spirits into his life. Once you walk into the territory of the enemy you are exposed to their influence in a dangerous way. I have even seen demonic spirits enter a person after only playing one time with an Ouija board. This may be rare but it can and does happen. These spirits work to bind people so that much larger and more deadly spirits of divination may come in.

Spirits that work underneath the familiar spirit:

- Generational spirits
- Necromancy

- Divination of every kind

- Witchcraft of every kind

PYTHON SPIRIT (DIVINATION): Acts 16:16-40: "Once when we were to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future (v.16)."

Python is the ruling spirit over all the works of divination and witchcraft. It is extremely powerful. It is so large that it can rule a territory, a city, a church, or a person as there are different levels of the python spirit. This spirit will do everything possible to stop a move of God. It is always wrapped in false financial gain. Python will work against the finances of the church and it either tries to squeeze the money out of a church or it seeks to make money its idol (Acts 16:19).

The python spirit will attack any church where the anointing is growing. It always seeks to destroy the church by going after the leadership (Acts 16:20). It will use lies, half-truths, and mix Scripture in a lie to get its way. The slave girl followed Paul around and said good things, but it was seeking to gain credibility and acceptance by being with Paul. Then, when Paul left the area, it would seek to draw others to itself to teach perverted doctrine, using Paul's reputation. Spirits of confusion, and lying and deceiving spirits work under the Python spirit (Acts 16:16-18).

This spirit disguised itself by trying to look religious. This is why the woman attached itself to Paul. She was with religious people; she made religious statements, but had an evil motive. This is why the religious spirit works well with the python spirit. The python spirit is good at setting up emergencies and crises situations to disguise itself, it keeps the staff exhausted and off-guard, and brings in more spirits when you are not paying attention (Acts 16:17-18).

The python spirit wants the focus off of God and on to humans. It will use the leadership by building up the human and convincing him how great he is, and then squeeze God out. Then, when the leader falls, the church is discouraged and people may either leave the church or the faith. Another tactic is to build a cult around the pastor where the people worship the pastor and not God (Acts 16:17).

There is no peace when the python spirit is around. There is much agitation and confusion, and the false leaders in a region are always after the real leaders chosen by God (Acts 16: 19-23). This spirit will use people to lie, manipulate, and bring accusations against the church leadership. It will try to get the leadership to give up on their vision through threats and intimidation (Acts 16:22-24). The python spirit brings persecution and seeks to wear down the church leadership, and uses angry, violent people when it can. It will incite people to rebel against authority and seeks to bring church splits whenever it can. It works well with the Jezebel spirit.
Spirits that work underneath the Python spirit:

- Jezebel spirit
- Religious spirits
- Familiar spirits
- Manipulation
- Violence
- Deception
- All forms of witchcraft and divination: necromancy, New Age practices, Satanism, and so on.

JEZEBEL SPIRIT: Rev.2:20:"Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols."

The Jezebel spirit is actually a group of spirits that work together under the Jezebel power. Jezebel was a follower of Baal and she will try to enwrap the church or area in witchcraft (1 Kings 18:4,18). Jezebel works mainly through a woman to attack a man, but will use anyone it can. She hates prophecy and people that move in intercessory prayer and the prophetic ministry (1 Kings 18:4). The Jezebel spirit will use lies and manipulations to get its way. When Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard she wrote letters and signed the king's name, and she enticed others to lie and falsely accuse Naboth, and she was directly responsible for manipulating his murder (1 Kings 21:1-16).

The spirit uses manipulative tactics by using people to get what it wants. It works through a person to take credit for other peoples' successes, and by getting in the middle of friendships and breaking them up. It manipulates

people through anger and accusations, to keep people afraid and intimidated. The religious spirit works powerfully with Jezebel as it acts like it is holy but they are quick to judge and condemn others (1 Kings 18:19).

The Jezebel spirit works in false prophecy (Rev.2:20). It loves to draw a crowd by giving personal prophecies before and after church services, away from the eyes and ears of the church leadership. It then builds a following by giving wonderful prophetic words to the people. People in the church start going to the person with the Jezebel spirit for guidance rather than the staff, and she eventually begins to encourage others to speak to the staff to put her in leadership. When the church leadership questions this, the person with the Jezebel spirit will speak against the leadership and may leave the church, taking the people with her.

The Jezebel spirit encourages sin in the church, especially sins of sexual immorality. It will always seek a position of power as in the church of Thyatira, where she held a teaching position (Rev.2:20). Her ways are full of seduction and teaches others that you can sin and it doesn't matter.

The Jezebel spirit also has personal attacks. The Jezebel spirit uses threats and intimidation in an attempt to stop people from growing spiritually and ministering to others (1 Kings 19:1-2). It tries to take your will from you to make you feel weak and helpless. The spirit of fear works under Jezebel. When Elijah was threatened by Jezebel he ran from her in fear (1 Kings 19:3). After being weakened and full of fear, the Jezebel spirit isolates the person to get them away from all support or help, as Elijah did by running into the desert (1 Kings 19:3).

When alone, spirits of depression, discouragement, and suicide begin to work as Elijah despaired of his life and asked God to take his life (1 Kings 19:3-5). When a person is in this depressed state, he or she loses the ability to hear God, and they lose all hope for their future (1 Kings 19: 10). The person feels that evil will win and lying spirits work to convince them that their life and ministry are over.

The Jezebel spirit can also work through a pastor or leader. These leaders will use fear and intimidation to keep people from asking questions of the operation of the church. Their entire goal is to gain control over all areas of church through power and threats. Pastors operating under the Jezebel spirit hate the prophetic ministry and seek to discredit it, as they are afraid it will expose them. However, they will use prophecy to manipulate others when it suits them.

A leader that is working under the Jezebel spirit surround themselves with weak “yes” men who will not question what is happening. They will manipulate others even to do wrong and then threaten to kick them out if they won’t obey. They will use money and position to control people. They will dangle money and staff positions in front of people with promises to promote them if they do what they are asked. They may dismantle a church board, kick out good, solid people, and anyone else that can threaten their power.

They will use false teaching to coerce others to give money and will not confront the sin of close colleagues. They work in extreme arrogance and pride and hate it when people ask questions about things going on in the church. Questions are seen as threats and anyone who asks a question is labeled as a trouble maker and either kicked out or publicly humiliated. The ultimate goal is for the spirit to control everything. The flow of the Spirit is stopped, the freedom of the people is compromised, and sin flourishes secretly.

Spirits that work underneath Jezebel:

- Religious spirit
- Lying spirit/deceiving spirit
- Mind-binding spirit
- Spirit of manipulation
- Spirit of control
- Spirit of heresy

- Spirit of intimidation

- Depression

- Discouragement

- Suicide

- Witchcraft

RELIGIOUS SPIRIT: 2 Timothy 3:5:"Holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these."

The spirit of religion is a deadly spirit. There is a focus on outward appearances, but inside there is emptiness and corruption. People with a religious spirit may go to church for 50 years and never be saved, yet they think they are ok because they have fulfilled an external obligation, while the internal remains untouched. For example, the religious leaders of Israel broke several of their laws to illegally condemn Jesus to death, but they would not enter the palace of Pilate because they did not want to be ritually unclean (John 18:28). Their hearts were cold and all they cared about was their external piety.

The religious spirit cares how you dress, what you eat, and who you talk to, but does not care if you know Jesus Christ personally; the externals mean everything. In fact, the religious spirit will encourage you to worship anything but Jesus. However, the real trap of the religious spirit is to get you to believe you are fine spiritually, when in fact you are headed for hell. People with the religious spirit are not born again and they do not have the power of the Holy Spirit working inwardly to change them into the image of

Christ.

People with a religious spirit love to show off about how spiritual they are. Jesus addressed this spirit in the religious leaders of Israel…"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven…And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full…When you fast do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting," (Matthew 6:1, 5, 16). But, even though they did all these external things, Jesus said…"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean," (Matthew 23:27).

People with the spirit of religion are focused on sin and watching the behavior of others. They have little love for someone who falls and operate in fear and condemnation. For example, when Judas sinned he came to the leadership stating that he had betrayed innocent blood, their response was typical of the religious spirit…"'What is that to us?' they replied. 'That's your responsibility,'" (Matthew 27:4).

They feel that they are better than others and only they are the "true believers." People with this spirit are quick to see the wrong in the church or other people and rarely give compliments. They are rigid, hate new things, and think anything new or spiritual is immediately bad or of the devil. They hate emotion being expressed in the church and feel that the church should be a place where everyone acts decent and self-controlled.

Spirits that work underneath the religious spirit:

- Control
- Manipulation
- Hatred
- Judgment
- Criticism
- Condemnation
- Pride
- Jealousy

SPIRIT OF ERROR: 1 John 4:6:"We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood."

The spirit of error seeks to lead people from the truth and into spiritual error. In most cases it tries to hide itself and work very subtly on people. Demons know the Word and this particular spirit is assigned to twist the Word and trap people in false doctrine. Satan tempted Jesus by quoting Scripture, but he misapplied it to try and get Jesus to step out of the will of God.

The spirit of error will try to get someone to take a Scripture out of context and build an entire flawed doctrine on it. For example, New Age people believe that since the Magi saw the star of Jesus and interpreted that the king of the Jews was born, they believe that the Bible supports astrology.

If someone is in sin the spirit of error will point out Scriptures that point to the judgment of God. They will try to twist a Scripture to get them to believe that they are shut out of the Kingdom of God. For example, 1 John 4:8 states…"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." If someone gets angry or critical of another, the spirit of error may bring this Scripture up and try to get them to believe that since she was not loving she is not of God, and therefore cannot be saved. This is not what this Scripture is stating. In context (1 John 4:7-10), this Scripture reveals that the love of God is in us and we should do things by His love. If we are not acting in love we are in the flesh; it does not mean that God has left us! This Scripture simply gives us a method to measure our actions and our motivations.

The spirit of error especially works on young people and those in emotional distress. This spirit tries to draw these people into cults that will meet an immediate emotional need. It will bring resources to the person that will persuade him that this cult will help meet a vacancy in his life. Once in the cult, it will bind the mind and lead the person to believe that he has found the truth.

This spirit will also attack those that feel guilty about sin or mistakes they have made. It will seek to get a person to believe that God has given up on them, and this is why the spirit of suicide and despair work well with it. This spirit wraps itself around the mind and seeks to block out all contradictory information and wants the person dwell on the lie only. It pushes for tunnel-vision and tries to get the person to excessively dwell on the negative. The

mind-binding attacks are usually severe and many people with this demon experience excruciating headaches.
Spirits that work underneath the spirit of error:

- Mind-binding spirit
- Despair
- Suicide
- Lying/Seducing spirits
- Guilt

VAMPIRE SPIRITS. Ancient Rabbi's did believe that Proverbs 30:15-16 alluded to a Vampire demon.

CHAPTER 6
DIVINATION

Throughout history humans have had an insatiable desire to know the future. Divination is the attempt to see or predict the future through methods not sanctioned by Scripture and is forbidden by the Word of God. There are many different methods of divination practiced by many different religions. However, all are condemned by the Bible.

Divination is addressed in Deuteronomy 19:9-12…"Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you."

Divination operates under the assumption that the spirit-world can be reached, there are supernatural and departed beings that desire to communicate with us, and if the right methods are used, they will communicate (willingly or unwillingly) supernatural information. The list of beings consulted are endless and consist of gods and goddesses from other religions, spirit-guides, angels, demons, ghosts, the planets, historical figures (like Socrates), and even satan.

Those that practice divination use several dangerous procedures. First, they may enter a state of relaxation or begin to meditate and pray to their gods. Second, they may visualize their gods to help them to become in tune with them. Visualizing may happen at any time. For example, the diviner may envision the god before the divination practice is used. Visualization may also happen during the divination procedure. For example, a person who uses runes may ask a question, choose a rune stone, and then visualize the rune as a door that may be opened and the answer would lie behind that rune door. Some have the person take the answer and chant it to themselves. And finally, a person may actually carve a divination sign on a piece of food and ingest it as a sign of completely accepting the divination sign.

There are several reasons why divination is not to be used by Christians. First, God said we should not do it and these practices are detestable to Him.

That is enough reason not to do it right there. Second, we can talk to God ourselves and get all the information we want. We don't need to go to anyone else. To consult anyone other than God is an insult to Him. God wants to communicate with us, but if we choose to communicate with someone else we are making a statement that we trust this other source to help us in need more than we trust Him.

Third, if God says it is a sin to practice divination (if it is detestable to God it is a sin), then if divination is practiced God has nothing to do with it and it is directly under the authority of the enemy. In other words, divination is a practice of the enemy and if you practice it you then fall under the authority and influence of the enemy. Demons are behind all forms of divination and if you consult them, they can have direct access into your life; you have given them authority to do so.

Divination is satan's counterfeit for prophecy. In prophecy, God speaks to or through a prophet to give a supernatural word to His people. Divination seeks the same thing-a spirit is consulted to give a supernatural word to whoever is seeking the information. When a prophecy from God is given and it comes to pass, faith is strengthened for a church, belief that God is real and is watching over all the details of life is increased, and the faith that God cares enough to communicate with us is embraced. To sum it all up: prophecy draws us closer to God.

Divination can have similar effects, but in the wrong direction. A form of divination in the ancient world was the method of hepatoscopy, which was practiced by many ancient cultures, and consisted of reading the liver of a sacrificed animal to interpret the future. Special markings would be looked for as well as whether certain parts of the liver were absent or enlarged. The liver was divided into zones and distinguishing features were examined. Markings on the right side of a zone would be considered unfavorable while markings on the left would be considered favorable. Ezekiel 21:21 mentions this practice…"For the king of Babylon will stop at the fork of the road, at the junction of the two roads, to seek an omen: He will cast lots with arrows, he will consult his idols, he will examine the liver." There were priests that were trained for this and livers were kept in the temples so that the priests could be called upon by a king to consult a liver before battle.

Now, what if a king asked for a liver to be consulted in the name of his god, to know what to do in a battle situation? What would he do if the priest read the liver, gave the king direction based on the reading of the liver, and

the battle was won based on this reading? If the king felt that the god communicated to him through the reading of the liver, he would be thankful to this god for helping him, he would feel that this god had given him favor, and he would be inclined to be more dedicated to this god. Divination has the same powerful effect as prophecy.

When demons work in divination they seek to ensnare the person using it. They give out correct or supernatural information that no one could know to get the individual to rely on them and keep coming back for more. I know of people (sadly even Christians) who will not leave their house unless they know their horoscope. They feel lost or unprotected without knowing what their future will be like on that day, week or month. The demon has effectively gained authority and power over their lives; the people are convinced that they need something, which is actually wrong for them, and continually go back for more.

I have actually worked with some people who will change the course of their day based on their horoscope reading. Over time, they will even make major life decisions, like whether or not to marry someone, based on their horoscope. As you can see, demons can be given authority to the point where they run every part of your life. It usually happens gradually, over a long period of time, and starts innocently by someone just reading her horoscope for fun. Then, she starts to read it daily, and then she notices that sometimes her horoscope comes true. She actually starts believing that it can help so she reads it faithfully and follows some of its advice. After several more instances where she followed the horoscope's advice and was successful, she started to use it as a life guide. The demon behind the horoscope is gaining more and more influence and she is losing more and more of her ability to think and act independently without the horoscope.

In many cases horoscope reading leads to further occult involvement, like going to psychics, tarot card readers, or other diviners. If one way works without God, maybe the other ways may work as well. There is a major problem with divination: when it works it only instigates a hunger for more. We love to gain spiritual information that benefits us. Deep down, we are hungry for God, we are hungry to know He is real, and we long to touch His Presence.

Divination answers some of these longings: there is contact with the spirit-realm so some curiosity of life after death is satisfied. There is contact with a being that appears to be helpful, and therefore cares. And, there is a false

connection with the spirit-realm that gives a sense of connection. However, it is all destined to create an entrapment that is very difficult to get out of. The individual is now serving a false god that he believes is real, helpful, and cares for him.

False divination can pull you into a future that God does not want for you. For example, palmists read lines on your hands to tell you your future. There are no lines on your hands that can predict your future. However, if you believe that palm lines can predict your future, then a palm reader can get you to do whatever they say based on their readings. Foe example, you go to a palm reader and ask her to read your future. She looks at your palm and tells you that something bad is going to happen and that you need to make a career change quickly. You may then quit her job out of fear. You may then not be able to find another job quickly and get into financial trouble and your life deteriorates. You then say to yourself, "the palm reader was right, I did have bad things coming in my future. I need to go back to her."

Several things happened here. First, she changed her life based on a false prophecy. Second, she made a decision that God never intended for you to do. Third, her life did unravel, but not for the reasons she thought. Fourth, she gained more trust in the palm reader who may then guide her life into more disasters. God has a plan for all of us. However, if you go to another source for your future, that source can pull you away from God's plan and God's future designed for you. The lines on your hand mean nothing. However, if you believe they do, than anyone can tell you anything and distort God's plan. In other words, false divination can mess up your future.

Demons can work against us to speak false prophecies and then get us to believe them. The king Jehoshaphat and king Ahab got together to battle against the enemy. They asked 400 prophets if they should go to war, and they all said yes. Jehoshaphat asked if there was a prophet of God in which to ask the question. They called Micaiah and he eventually said go home. Micaiah then revealed a vision he received, that a lying spirit was working through the 400 prophets. However, the kings went into battle anyway, Ahab died and they did not win the battle (1 Kings 22:1-40). In other words, the lying spirits spoke a false word about the future success of war, they believed the demons, and they paid dearly for it.

TYPES OF DIVINATION

There are virtually hundreds of types of divination and each type may have many subtypes, or different ceremonies or rituals within a type (Cunningham, 2003; Dow, 1999). This list is not meant to be exhaustive or conclusive. It is to help to identify the many forms of divination, what they do, and how they work on behalf of the evil one. All are forbidden by God and are against His Holy Word.

Scrying: Scrying is gazing into an object in order to get supernatural information. Objects include a crystal ball, water in a dark bowl, mirrors, or staring at a solitary candle in a dark room. Scrying has been around for thousands of years, and has been practiced by almost every culture, from the Greeks, Asians, Egyptians, and Europeans. The most famous was Nostradamus who used a black mirror, as well as a dish filled with black ink to predict the future. Nostradamus was said to have predicted the rise of Hitler, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and the Revolutionary War, to name a few.

The purpose is to stare at the object until a vision emerges. The surface of the object is generally desired to be smooth, as it is considered more neutral which provides less visual cues to influence the vision. An example of the ancient Greeks using scrying was to determine what was going to happen to a sick person-they would stare into a mirror and then ask to see the future of the sick person.

Some people claimed to be able to detect demons inside of mirrors by staring at them. Others claimed to be able to discover anything happening within miles by staring into a cup of water. For example, if you wanted to know if someone was in your home while on vacation you could go to one practiced in scrying and he could look into a cup of water and see your home and whether someone was there or not.

The design of scrying is to stare at an object as long as possible which induces a sort of trance. Inside of this trance, reality around the person melts away and a vision will come forth inside the object. The person who is practicing scrying may also hear a voice or feel the presence of a spirit.

A client may come to a witch or diviner to ask what to do about a certain situation in his life. The diviner would look into the crystal ball to seek an answer to the question. This clearly has nothing to do with God. By the person going into a trance he is opening up himself to whatever is in the atmosphere. Since God will have no part in this activity, a demon or familiar

spirit who works through the scryer will give the supernatural information.

Tarot Card Reading: Tarot cards consist of 78 cards. There are 22 major arcane cards, which are theme cards about life, the soul's journey throughout life, mystical secrets, such as the fool, the emperor or strength, and the 56 minor arcane cards are about every day life experiences. The 56 minor arcane cards are divided into suits, called wands, cups, swords, and pentacles. The origin of Tarot cards is in question. Some say they originated in Italy, some France, and some say Egypt. For those that believe in a more Egyptian origin, the tarot cards are believed to hold all the occult wisdom of ancient Egypt. There are beliefs that it started with the Gnostics as early as the second century, and others claim a more medieval origin, (see figure 6).

There are many different types of tarot card decks and many possible ways to read or interpret them. The tarot cards may predict the future, uncover the past, or help with decisions in the present. There are several reading spreads with tarot cards. The first is a 3 card spread. A person comes to a reader and may ask a question, "What do you see in my future?" After the cards are shuffled the person seeking answers may draw 3 cards, and each position is assigned the past, present, and future.

Another reading spread is the 10 card spread, otherwise known as the Celtic cross. The cards are basically spread out in a cross shape, and then 4 cards are aligned next to it. Each position card represents the following in the interpretations: 1. the inquirer, 2. what the inquirer is thinking about, 3. his future goals, 4. his distant past, 5. his recent past, 6. the near future, 7. the inquirer again, 8. new changes in his life, 9. feelings, emotions, and how well he is dealing with them, and 10. future outcomes (this is only one of many interpretation styles).

Tarot cards are very popular and are used by psychics, witches, mediums, and other religions. The tarot cards are said to be magical; they can answer questions, guide your life, reveal hidden problems, reveal the future, and reveal the opinions of the spirits who communicate through the card reader. The cards are guided by the gods/goddesses or spirits, and they do not fall by chance. In fact, many interpretations by the tarot card readers are said to be guided by the spirits, which is a form of demonic prophecy.

Casting Runes: Casting Runes is centuries old. Its roots lie in Norse mythology. The most powerful god, Odin, desired to learn about mortality

and attempted to experience the process by stabbing himself and hanging himself from a tree. After several days in this state, he gained enlightenment and saw the runes, and later used them to predict the future (this is only one of many legends).

Runes look like and serve as an ancient alphabet. There are 24 symbols that are drawn on stones or wood, usually with blood for more power. There are 3 main sets of 8 runes, based on 3 different gods. The idea is to ask a question and then consult the runes for an answer. This can be done by putting the runes in a bag, ask the question, and then draw the hidden rune out of the bag to get an answer. You may also place all the runes face down and then pick them up to answer a question.

Each rune symbolizes something. For example, the Berkana rune symbolizes fertility and pregnancy, healing, looking after people and nature, and the Fehu rune refers to money, possessions, and whatever you value in life (see figure 6). A person may ask a question about his past, present, or future, and use the runes to give guidance to the answers. The runes have meanings with each symbol and the person is to apply the meaning of the rune to their question.

I Ching: The I Ching means "The Book Of Changes," and it has been around for thousands of years. There are various theories as to how it started. One theory has it created by a Chinese Emperor 6000 years ago. Another legend was that it was created 3000 years ago by a Chinese man who was imprisoned by the Emperor for being more popular. He developed the I Ching in prison and it was expanded by others, even Confucius, over hundreds of years.

Basically, the I Ching consists of 64 hexagrams made of broken lines, symbolizing Yin, and solid lines, representing Yang. According to its followers, everything in this universe is comprised of elements of Yin and Yang. Yin is the negative, feminine side, which is weak, sensual, and of the earth. Yang is the strong, positive, aggressive, male side, and the heavenly side. Examples of some of the 64 hexagrams would be creativity, stagnation, falling apart, fire, progress, decay, and so on. Each has a lengthy interpretation along with its symbol and title (see figure 6).

To consult the I Ching a person must first come up with a question. A method to answer this question would be using 3 similar coins, like 3 nickels. One side would have numerical value of 2, and the other side 3. The

three coins would be tossed and their values added up. An odd number would have a Yang line, and even number would have a Yin line. Next, you would draw the appropriate line. You would toss the coins 6 times to complete the hexagram to answer your question.

Palmistry: Palmistry is reading the hand for divination. A palmist (one who reads palms) looks at the shape of the hand, the lines, different mounts, the fingers, and the thumb. The dominant hand is used to study and reveals the future and answers the questions of life. The weaker hand would be used to read into the character.

For example, the thumb is supposed to reveal a person's energy level, strength of will, and character. A long thumb may be indicative of a strong, forceful personality, and a short thumb may indicate someone who is shy, withdrawn, and has low self-esteem. In regards to lines, an example would be the fate line, which is located in the middle of the hand, and stretches from the bottom of the middle finger to the wrist. The fate line reveals career satisfaction. You would look at the strength in the line, breaks in the line, and how long it is. Mounds or mounts, are the fleshy bumps or pads in the hand. There is the Mount of Venus, located at the base of the thumb, towards the palm. It is supposed to be the seat of emotions, sexual energy, physical energy, and love, and aesthetic beauty, (see figure 6).

A person may come in and ask any question to the palm reader. A common question would, "what is in my future?" The palm reader would then analyze the hand and give a prophetic word based on the reading of the signs on the palm.

Numerology: is the study of numbers and their spiritual, mystical relationship with life, the universe, and ultimately God. Many cultures have studied numbers and believe that they represent mystical truths. It is believed that numerology began with Pythagoras in the 6th century, B.C. The central idea is that everything in the universe can be reduced to numbers. The universe was created with vibrated energy. Each number, from 1-9 has an energy level assigned to it. The lower numbers have less spirit, and the higher numbers have more spirit. Also, the lower the number the more negative or undeveloped the trait is said to be (see figure 6).

Each number then, contains vibrated energy, spirit, and personal attributes. In numerology, our names and the date of our birth are extremely

important. When you were conceived in your mothers' womb, numerologists believe that you choose the day and the parents in which to be born, that matches your spirit, your energy, and attributes. Since our names will have tremendous spiritual importance because of their number assignment, what our parents name us and when we are born determines everything about our lives, personality, and our fate. That is why most numerologists believe in reincarnation. You come back and choose a way to work out your past mistakes.

There are 4 basic readings in numerology. The first is the Soul Urge number. This is calculated by adding up the numerical value of the vowels of your full name. This number reflects your inner self, your cravings, desires, your interests, and your inner values. Thus, if you are a 3 you are artistic, bubbly, and outgoing, but if you are a 1, you are a loner, analytical, and shy.

The second number that a numerologist would analyze is called Secret Dreams-Outer Personality. This reading is done by adding up all the consonants in your full name. This can measure how you relate to others or your dreams and fantasies relating to career, love, growth, and spirituality, depending upon which system you use. The third number is the Path of Destiny number or also known as the Expression number. This is calculated by adding up all the letters in your full name. This addresses all of your skills and abilities and your future potential. Finally, the Life Path or Life Lesson number is found by converting your birth date to a number. This is considered the most important number of all, as it describes all the lessons, obstacles, and opportunities you will have in life.

If a person consults a numerologist they can find out many things. First, your name and birth date can be converted to numbers, and your personality, your destiny, and your career can be mapped out. You may also ask questions to be answered by a numerologist, "Will I be successful?" "Am I in the right career?" "Should I marry a person with this name and birth date?" Numerology can and is used to guide the future for those who inquire, and is used to understand your past lives, and how to work out your next life (see Javane & Bunker for the Divine Triangle system).

Astrology: Astrology is the analysis of the position of the stars on the day you were born, in order to understand your personality, your challenges, and your destiny. It is perhaps the oldest form of divination recorded in history. It has been found to date back to the early days of humans, going literally to

the time of Genesis. It is used all over the world by almost every culture. There is personality astrology, vocational astrology, financial astrology, sexual astrology, relationship astrology, and medical astrology, to name a few. Today, horoscopes, which are astrology readings, are in most major newspapers. In other words, divination is in mainstream America. Many people may ask you, "What is your sign?" They are actually referring to your astrological sign. If you tell them your birthday they will began to read your personality based on your sign.

There are 12 basic signs in astrology. The signs of the zodiac are Aries, Pisces, and Cancer, as examples. The houses (the sky is divided up into houses) represent the areas of life, such as health, public life, and how much you own, and the zodiac signs represent personality characteristics. The goal is to find the date you were born, and where the sun was at that point (there are other planetary readings).

From these different categories an astrological interpretation can be read. The amazing aspect of astrology is that the day a baby is born, astrologists can produce a printout of the child's life, what she will be like, her future career strengths, or obstacles, her relationship strengths and weaknesses, possible medical problems, and things to work out in her personality. Reincarnation and working out past lives is also a major theme in astrology. A big reason that people go to astrologers is for the prediction of the future.

It is amazing to believe that the stars can tell us anything; they are rocks floating in space. Yet astrologists believe that the stars reveal much about us. They believe that the stars influence us and that the stars reflect what is already happening on earth. The universe is believed to work in harmony and whatever is occurring in the stars affects us.

The Bible is very clear that God frowns upon astrology. Why consult the planets when you can talk to the Creator of the planets. Isaiah 47:13-14 makes it very plain…"All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions by the month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame."

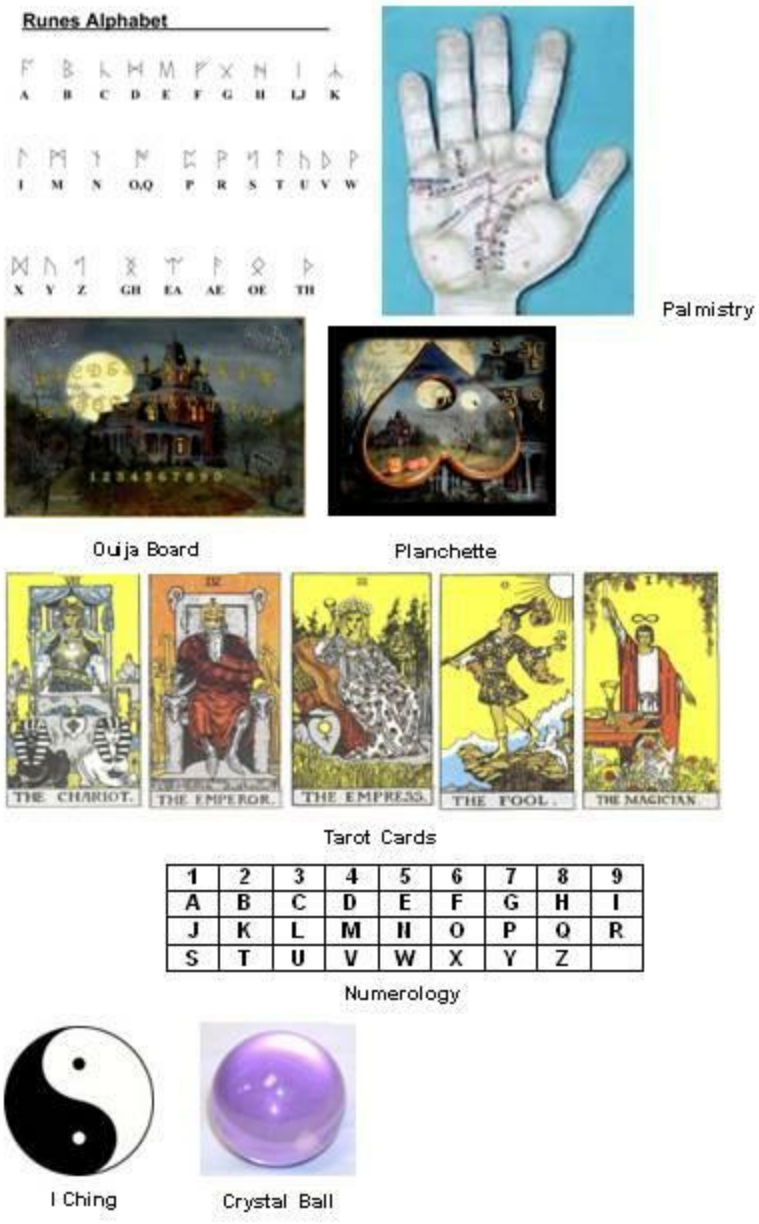
Runes Alphabet
A B C D E F G H I K
I M N O,Q P R S T U V W
X Y Z GB EA AE OE TH
Palmistry
Ouija Board
Planchette
THE CHARIOT.
THE EMPEROR.
THE EMPRESS.
THE FOOL.
THE MAGICIAN
Tarot Cards
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
A B C D E F G H I
J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z
Numerology
I Ching
Crystal Ball

Figure 6

Other Forms of Divination: There are literally hundreds of divination techniques used all over the world (Buckland, 2003). All are against the Word of God and are susceptible to demonic influences. Here are just a few to give you examples of how prevalent divination is:

- **Aeromancy**: divination using the atmosphere, such as studying the shapes, colors, and movements of clouds.
- **Alomancy**: divination using table salt**.**

- **Botanomancy**: divination through the burning of specific trees or shrubs.
- **Cartomancy**: using a standard deck of cards for divination.
- **Chalcomancy**: divination through interpreting tones after hitting copper or brass pots or bowls.
- **Dominoes**: The origin of dominoes goes back almost 1000 years. Dominoes are used in many countries for divination, including China, Korea, and India. Each domino has a specific interpretation attached to it. For example, the 3/1 domino is negative, and it means beware of others as someone may be trying to hurt you or cause you problems. To read the dominoes, you would place them all face down, mix them up, and then ask a question. You would seek guidance from the spirits and choose either one, or 3 (past, present, future) and read the interpretation from the domino chosen.
- **Dowsing**: This is also known as "water witching." It is used in divination primarily to search for water that is underground. The most widely used method is a piece of branch in a "y" shape, usually of hazel wood. Someone may ask a person skilled in dowsing to find a good place to dig a well. The person would take the divining rod and search for the right spot to dig. When the right spot was found the stick would point downwards. If a person used 2 sticks, they would cross over water. Many think the divining rod is magical. Some say the spirits work through the rod or the person to find the water. Dowsing has been used to find oil, minerals, and even lost items.
- **Hippomancy**: divination by watching the walking and neighing of horses.
- **Ichthyomancy**: divination using fish, living or dead.
- **Omphilomancy:** divination by using the navel.
- **Ovomancy**: divination by dropping egg whites into water.
- **Pendulum**: Pendulums have been used for thousands of years by many cultures, including the Chinese, Romans, and Egyptians. There are several ways that it has been used over the years. A piece of thread may have a crystal, magic ring, or any sacred object on the end of it. At the simplest form a person may have a board with the words "yes" and "no" written on opposite ends. The person may ask a question and then hold the pendulum to see which way it would swing to answer the question. Some may put the entire alphabet on a board and spell out words or

phrases. The idea is that the spirits would guide the pendulum to the correct answer for you. Many people use the pendulum over a pregnant woman to predict the sex of the baby. This was actually on an episode of “All In The Family.”

- **Scapulomancy**: divination by using the shoulder bone of an animal.
- **Sideromancy**: the burning of straws with hot utensils, and then using the shapes for divination.
- **Tyromancy**: divination by the coagulation of cheese.
- **Uromancy**: divination by using urine.
- **Xylomancy**: Divination by using burning logs, the position of fallen tree branches, or collected branches.

CHAPTER 7
NECROMANCY AND HAUNTED HOUSES

Necromancy is consulting the dead for revelation, protection, or inspiration. It is absolutely forbidden by the Bible. Deuteronomy 18:10-11 states…"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a *necromancer,*" Italics mine).

There are some differences as to what is being contacted in necromancy. Traditionally necromancy is consulting the dead. However, Satanists may seek to contact evil spirits, spiritists may seek to contact ghosts, and mediums may contact guardian spirits (good or helpful spirits), or people that have died. Some even aspire to contact the spirit of death, or Azrael (Wendell, 1991). In reality, these are all demons; however, the primary belief of all these practices is contacting a being or entity from the spirit-realm. For these purposes, necromancy will refer to all of these practices.

The Scriptures teach us that we are not to attempt to consult the dead and there are several reasons for this. First, the dead cannot speak to us as God has forbidden communication of the dead to the living. In the parable of the rich man and the beggar Lazarus, the rich man paid no attention to the poverty of Lazarus. When both died, Lazarus went to Abraham's bosom and the rich man went to hell. In hell, the rich man asked Abraham for a favor…"'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them listen to them.' 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Jesus told this parable to make it clear that God does not allow the dead to come back to the earth to communicate. All the decisions we make on earth

have eternal consequences. We only have one chance on this earth to get it right and then after death comes the judgment.

The second reason is that if the dead cannot contact us than the beings contacting us must be either demons or it is our imaginations. In other words, God forbids necromancy because He is protecting us from harm. If we try to contact the dead, but God tells us not to do this, then it is sin. When in sin we are in the territory of the enemy. The enemy has authority to work if we give him permission. So, if we attempt to contact the dead, evil spirits will disguise themselves as the deceased to communicate and entrap the ones consulting them.

The third reason we are not to contact the dead is because demons want to contact us and this is a way that they can get a foothold in our lives. Demons are actively seeking the destruction and downfall of the human race and they try to get into our lives any way possible. In necromancy, humans are actually seeking out demonic help and they are more then willing to comply. Necromancy can lead to oppression and eventually demonic possession.

The fourth reason we are not to consult the dead is because we can consult a living God who wants to communicate with us and help us. This is stated in Isaiah 9:19 perfectly…"When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?" The dead can give no answers to the living, but God can, and since God knows all, sees all, and is all powerful, isn't He the perfect One to consult?

THE DIFFERRENT METHODS OF NECROMANCY

Before we go into reasons why people use necromancy, the different methods of necromancy need to be explained. Necromancy is wrong, but today it is so disguised as good and harmless, that people do not even realize that they are participating in it. For example, many children and adults play with Ouija boards and view these boards and harmless fun. An Ouija board is a board with numbers and letters on it, with the words "yes" and "no" and "goodbye." A planchette is a triangular piece that people place their fingertips on. After the spirits are invited to actively participate in the procedure, a question is asked and presumably that spirit moves the planchette to spell out an answer to your question.

In one situation I was outside with my daughter swimming in the

apartment pool. All of a sudden 4 kids came running out of an apartment screaming in fear. I ran over to the apartment and saw the lights off and a bunch of kids sitting around an Ouija board. The kids ran out of the apartment because they felt a presence enter the room and the planchette starting moving on its own. When I walked in the kids were very frightened because the board spelled out that the next person to walk into the apartment would be me. The kids originally thought that this was just a silly game. However, they really invited a demon into the room and they were really in spiritual trouble as the spirit was controlling what was happening and put tremendous fear in these kids.

There are numerous ways that the dead or evil spirits are contacted. Not all types will be covered, just enough of the key types will be covered to give you an idea what is going on out there.

SÉANCE: Séance comes from the French word "to sit." The primary goal of the séance is for people in this world to contact spirits in the next world. For example, a group of people may gather for the purpose of contacting a dead relative because of grief or simply to find out where he is in the hereafter. Usually there will be a medium present or one skilled in contacting the spirit-realm. All may sit in a circle with the lights turned low. The people may join hands, meditate, visualize a protective field around them and then pray and ask for guardian spirits to protect them. Once the leader feels they are ready, the deceased may be summoned. The idea is for all the people to positively channel their energies and prayers together towards the spirit to help it come into this world. All sorts of strange things may happen during the séance. A spirit may move objects in the room, show up visibly, or answer a question by bringing a new object into the room.

TABLE TIPPING: Table tipping is using a table to communicate with the spirit-realm. During a séance people may sit around a table. They will place their hands on the table, linked together if there are enough people. The people would go through the séance procedures but they would ask the question and ask the spirit to speak through thumping the legs of the table on the ground (1 thump for yes, 2 thumps for no), or the spirit can be asked to raise the table and tilt it left or right, for yes or no. There are cases of tables rising off the ground, tables spinning around, and tables walking around the room when the spirits are present. Malcolm Dent was responsible for taking

care of a house bought by Jimmy Page, of Led Zeppelin fame. Jimmy Page bought a house once owned by the Satanist Aleister Crowley and Dent said that rugs would roll up on its own and furniture would move by itself (Wall, 2008).

TALKING BOARDS: The Ouija board has been somewhat covered, but basically it can be used as a point of contact where the spirits can answer questions by moving the planchette around the board to spell out answers. This is very dangerous. Many evil spirits have been loosed into the lives of those participating in using the Ouija board only one time. Powerful spirits of witchcraft (python) hover around the use of the Ouija board and they can even enter the area of children playing with them. Ouija boards are gateways to evil and should not be used. Talking boards are homemade Ouija boards. They consist of a board with all the letters of the alphabet, the numbers 0-9, and the words "yes," "no," "rephrase," and "goodbye." A wine glass may be used as a planchette. There should be a spokesperson to ask the questions, and a record keeper to write down the answers.

MAGIC CIRCLES: This is a broad phenomenon, but an example would be a Satanist or a medium going to a cemetery to consult the dead or a witch summoning an evil spirit. A grave would be dug up of a fresh body that has only been dead for several days. It is believed that their spirits are closer to the earth, especially those who died violently or suddenly before their time. After the body is dug up, a magic circle is created to protect them from all evil spirits in the area.

After the magic circle is in place, the spirit will be asked to come forth and answer their questions. In many cases, it has been reported that the body would sit up in the grave and the spirit would speak through the lips of the deceased. Some believe that it is the deceased speaking and some believe that it is an evil spirit. This is extremely dangerous, and it has been reported that many have been attacked by the spirits and that these spirits have killed or brutally beaten the very ones that have summoned them.

In cases where there is a general summoning at a home or sanctuary, the spirits in the atmosphere are addressed. Some have reported that the spirits show up first as voices, such as animal sounds or unearthly voices, screaming, frightful shrieks, and loud wailing. Then, the spirits come in frightening images, such as fire-breathing animals seeking to attack, and

finally in human form. Each series of appearances are to frighten and intimidate the necromancer in order to gain control of him/her. Others have several spirits in operation that communicate with each other. Coleman discusses ancestral spirits, divination spirits, and operative spirits. If the necromancer can show no fear, he can then communicate and give orders to the spirits (see Wendell, 1991; Coleman, 2005).

ELECTRONIC VOICE PHENOMENON: Electronic voice phenomenon has gained much popularity in recent years. In fact, a major motion picture from Hollywood entitled "White Noise," is based on this phenomenon. Very simply, it is recording the communication of the dead through voice recordings. A person is to speak out loud and tell the spirits that he is going to record and then ask them if they would answer into the recorder. Then, he is supposed to turn on the recorder, wait briefly, and ask the question. Those involved must be absolutely silent (and be in a soundproof area) and let the spirits speak. After several minutes, alert the spirits that you are to going to turn it off, and then do so after a brief period of time.

There are all sorts of documentation on the internet of these recordings. You can hear the human ask the question and you can then hear the voices answering. These voices are loud enough to be heard and some have identified these voices as past dead relatives, or spirits that haunt the building or area they are in. The examples are quite extensive, but you can hear voices of children, men, women, malevolent-fearful shrieks, loud responses, soft responses, and unintelligible responses.

Something is happening out there that is very interesting. These voices are actual voices of the spirit-realm. These are demons that have broken through the barrier. This is very alarming because instead of people being frightened or alarmed by this, they actually are fascinated by this and have little fear of contacting the spirits. Most people in the ghost-hunting realm see these voices as coming from deceased humans that are trapped and cannot get to the next spiritual level. They do not see these as demons trying to trick them into gaining more power into their lives.

This is why the demons disguise their voices to mimic children, teens, and adults, both male and female. In human reasoning since they sound like humans they must be human. This assumption cannot be true because the Bible states that the dead cannot contact the living. So, if these are not dead

people, they are lying demons and they are dangerous. Humans can be so deceived that they believe that demons are actually lost, need help, and are very friendly. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The demons are actually becoming bolder in their activities because humans do not see them as what they are. Maybe 50 years ago the demons could not be so bold because people knew this was wrong and if they heard a voice from beyond they would stop and repent very quickly out of fear.

So the electronic voice phenomenon is a barometer of the spiritual dullness of the world. It looks like people are loosening demons from the spirit-realm into our realm at a rapid pace, and this is one of the reasons why evil is increasing in America. In addition, since most people have no clue that what they are doing is dangerous, the demons loosed into this world will increase.

SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY

This is taking pictures or videos of an area to try and capture spirits on film. There are many ways this is done, but some go to a cemetery or a haunted house, ask the spirits to come forth, and then leave and let the camera run. With our current technology, many are using video cameras to try and capture spirits visually. For example, Instrumental Transcommunication is a method by which you take a video camera and plug it into a television so that the television shows what the camera sees. Then one is to point the camera at the television which causes video feedback. The feedback is the recorder. The person invites the spirits to come forth, then turns the camera on, and records.

In some cases a face or an outline of a form (phantom) may appear in the feedback. In other instances what looks like blobs of light or pulsating shapes move about the screen. EVP and spirit photography are used by ghost hunters when they enter a building to try and determine whether it is haunted or not.

In this age of technology people are even using computers to contact the dead. They may ask the spirits to come forth and type a message on their computer screen or ask them to appear on their computer screen. The ways in which people try to contact the spirit-realm are endless.

For example, many are using Air Ion Converters (measuring change in ions or radioactive change), Temperature Gauges (cold readings in a hot room means that an evil presence is here), and the measuring of

Electromagnetic Fields -if ghosts are present, then energy changes, (Balzano, 2009; Ellis, 2011). In addition, Ghost hunters also use Infrared Motion Detectors to detect the presence of the supernatural.

DIVINATION USED TO CONTACT THE SPIRITS: In many cases, tarot cards, runes, mirror gazing (scrying) and dominoes may be used to contact the spirits. For example, a tarot card reader may ask the spirits to guide the cards or help with the interpretations. If you wanted to contact your dead mother you could ask a tarot card reader how your mother is doing and the reader may ask the dead mother to help give her information on her condition. The dead can be summoned to communicate through the divination techniques to give guidance and evidence of their existence.

GHOSTS

It appears that many people are fascinated with ghosts these days. There are television shows about ghost hunters, television shows about mediums that contact ghosts, there are books on haunted places where you can actually schedule your vacation around visiting ghost sites in the 50 states, and there are Hollywood movies that glorify ghosts. Ghosts appear to be very popular, but what are these things anyway?

From a secular perspective, there are several definitions and types of ghosts. Holzer (2002) believes that ghosts are people that have not transitioned from this world to the spirit-world. He believes that these people died suddenly or violently and due to great suffering and emotional pain they are unable to conquer their pain and move on. They keep reliving the horrible moment (like being murdered) and cannot find peace.

Ogden (2004) believes that this may be too narrow of a definition. He sees ghosts as having many levels of interactions and styles. He sees entities such as ghosts as the spirits of the dead that may be here to get revenge for past crimes (to haunt others), to watch loved ones (like a deceased man haunting his widowed wife), or to stick around to tie loose ends. In addition, there are some ghosts who may not even realize that they are dead, and some that had lives that were suddenly cut too short (like a child's) and the ghost just keeps living here for a while until it goes on to the next level.

Winkowski (2009) believes that ghosts are not stuck here. She believes

that ghosts enjoy being here and do not want to leave; they may stick around for revenge or pleasure. She sees it as more of a choice than being trapped.

Ghost stories and haunted places are in abundance in the media. The following stories are what ghost hunters and secular believers have found in their research. Holzer (2002) tells of the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. Here, a man named Richard Miller was an usher at the theatre and killed himself after many unfortunate events. He has been seen years later walking down the aisle where he worked, he has been seen in the parking lot of the theatre, and the piano has started playing with no one there to play it.

Holzer also tells of the home of President Woodrow Wilson and his Washington D.C. home. Many had heard footsteps in the home (now a museum) and so Holzer and a medium went to investigate. A séance was conducted and supposedly Woodrow Wilson spoke through the medium, lamenting the lack of peace in the world, but predicted that there would be peace between hostile nations in 1989. Holzer believes that this was Woodrow Wilson because the Soviet Union went through tremendous changes that year, that led to its collapse and peaceful negotiations beginning between America and Russia.

Belengar (2011) tells about a haunted hotel in Alaska. Supposedly a woman's husband left for a long period of time to mine for gold. She ran out of money and thought that he was never coming back, so she turned to prostitution to make ends meet. Her husband later returned and murdered her in the hotel. Over the years, people have reported seeing this woman sitting in a room, have seen her reflection in a hallway mirror, and have had objects moved and misplaced by her. One person reported being in a hotel room bathroom that was old fashioned, but later upon return, it was more modern and completely different, though no work had been done to the room.

Poltergeists are named after the German words for noisy ghosts. They are usually not seen but they make their presence known by moving objects, such as throwing dishes, moving furniture, or knocking and ringing doorbells. Many believe the poltergeists are attracted to a house by a person, much like an assignment, and in many instances are drawn to adolescent girls. Their explanation is that teenagers have a lot of hormonal and emotional energy that attracts these spirits. Poltergeists can become very intrusive and may stay attached to the person for the rest of their lives. Some believe they are harmless while others believe that they can be quite dangerous.

Ghosts are nothing but demons. Since ghosts are believed to be dead

people, and these dead people can be seen, heard, or felt, this breaks the Scriptures, as the Scriptures state that the dead may not have contact with the living. All of these experiences that these ghost hunters have are contacts with demons. It does not matter what type of ghost is described: all are demons.

In reality, ghosts are territorial demons that have been assigned to an area and do not leave unless they are expelled. These territorial spirits can dwell in or haunt small locations, like a house or a hotel, or larger locations, such as a city or state. These spirits are assigned to possess and transform an area into evil rather than possess a person.

There are several reasons why demons haunt or stay in an area. First, the spirits may have been invoked to dwell in the land and their possession was never revoked. For example, in some areas such as Iraq (Babylon) the practice of following false gods was there in Genesis 11 (the tower of Babel) and remains there until the end in the book of Revelation (Revelation 18:1-3). The false gods are welcomed and their demonic influence remains.

Secondly, the spirits may have attached themselves to an evil person who owns the property, and remained on the property after the owner died. The demons stay in the area to find new people to influence as they have never been cast out. Generational territorial spirits work in the same way. If land has been passed down from generation to generation, the demonic powers that are not revoked travel with the family line. This is why so many people see ghosts of dead relatives in their houses.

Finally, some builders invoke spirits to enter the buildings that they have manufactured. For example, a pastor friend of mine had a church that was built 35 years ago. When he began to study the ways of evil he discovered that his sanctuary ceiling was built to resemble the astrological sign of Jupiter. The builder put this into the building and no one checked for any strange symbols or objects that the builder may have placed there. The builder may have been a cultist who put this there to invite evil spirits into the building to disrupt the services of the church.

The good news is that these places can be cleansed by the power of the Blood of Jesus. To cleanse a property, do the following steps:

- Have the person remove all objects that represent false gods or anything in rebellion against God, as demons can inhabit objects and God demands that we have no unclean thing in our homes. Deuteronomy

7:25-26:"The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the Lord your God. Do not bring a detestable thing into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Utterly abhor and detest it, for it is set apart for destruction." Demons do inhabit objects. A co-worker of mine bought a dream catcher to put over his newborn son's crib. I told him not to do it, but he did it anyway. After several weeks his son became deathly ill and the doctors could find no reason. With medicine, his son got a little better, but then had a frightening relapse. The doctors tried more medicine and he got a little better. Finally, his son got sick again and the father threw away the dream catcher, repented of it, and his son got better and never was sick like that again.

- Get a history of the property and all previous owners if possible.
- Walk through the house, praying in every room, and seeking discernment to determine if there are any demons there and how they got there. You might see pictures of past events to tell you what was there. In one case, I walked through a house and got vision of people doing cocaine in a bathroom. It was later confirmed that a drug dealer lived there before and held wild parties in the house. You may get foul smells, a chilled or uncomfortable feeling, you may hear the spirits speaking, see them, or have a foul taste in your mouth if a demon is present.
- Once you discern what demons are there, go through every room and cast out all evil spirits, and revoke their right to be there by the Blood of Jesus. Also, if the current owners have sinned in the house or brought evil objects in, ask them to confess and repent of it.
- Then, go through every room and anoint it with oil and pray for the Holy Spirit to fill each room with His Presence. In addition, go to the front door and dedicate the house and the property fully to the Lord.

WHY PEOPLE SEEK TO CONTACT THE DEAD

Even though the Bible teaches that contacting the dead is sin and it is dangerous, people still do it. There are several reasons for this. First, we have a society that does not believe in the truth and the accuracy of the

Bible. For some, they are spiritually unaware of the Word and are unsaved. Others read the Word, but only obey what is convenient to them. Lastly, there are even some Christian denominations that believe that you can contact the dead and it is sanctioned by God. With this last group it is usually the preaching of the pastor and church doctrine that convinces them that consulting the dead is fine.

The second reason to contact the dead is out of curiosity. Many people are intrigued about the possibility of life after death and are actually searching for spiritual answers by making contact with the spirit-realm. In other words, if they can contact the dead, then there must be life after death and there maybe something to worship out there. This curiosity is dangerous because many seek help in contacting the dead from people that are already Satanists, New Age believers, Buddhists, and so on. Also, they are coming into contact with demons, not dead people, and this is dangerous.

Some see contacting the dead as "cool" or "fun." They have no idea what they are doing. All they want to do is act a little dangerously, push the limits, and see if something will happen. In many cases these are teenagers and college students. However, just because they are playing around, doesn't mean that the spirits are playing around. The spirits respond to ignorance as much as to the dedicated followers.

Finally, the reason that people contact the dead is for comfort. Some people miss their lost loved one so intensely that they will do anything to see or touch them again, even if it is wrong. I have seen many people go to a medium to contact their dead spouse, and when they see or hear their deceased loved one in a séance, they totally believe it is true and turn away from Christianity because their experience is more believable than God's commands. They are willing to switch faiths to believe that they can still have contact with the lost loved one.

A FINAL WORD ON CONTACTING THE DEAD

One of the strongest arguments that speaks against contacting the dead is that it devalues the work of the cross and the suffering of Jesus. One of the reasons that Jesus died on the cross was to break the power of sin and death…"Death has been swallowed up in victory," (1 Cor.15:54). If death has been conquered by Jesus, than He has power over death…"I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades," (Rev.1:18).

If Jesus has authority over death, why are there dead people roaming around. Doesn't Jesus have the power to send them to heaven or hell? If they are still wandering around this earth, why would Jesus allow this? If they deserve heaven wouldn't that be better? If they deserve hell, the parable of Lazarus states that placement is final with no communication between the 2 worlds. If the dead are still roaming around trying to complete a final task, why didn't Jesus keep them alive to complete the task?

In other words, the people that contact the dead believe that the dead are somehow trapped here in emotional distress. This makes Jesus weak and not the Authority over life and death. Jesus would not leave someone in this state. And, if He did, He would be sinning because He taught us that the dead cannot communicate with the living. If He left the dead as ghosts to be seen and heard, He would actually be allowing the dead to communicate to us, and He would then be going against His own Word.

The Scriptures teach us that when we die we go immediately to the Lord for His placement. For example, when the man on the cross asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus came into His kingdom, Jesus said…"I tell you the truth, *today* you will be with Me in paradise," (Luke 23:43; italics mine). Not at the end of time, but on that very day, when he died, he would be in paradise with Jesus. Other Scriptures that point to an immediate placement in heaven with Christ, or in hell (2 Cor.5:8; Phil.1:21-23; Rev.6:9-11). If Scripture teaches an immediate placement at death then there are no dead people walking around on earth.

CHAPTER 8
PSYCHICS, MEDIUMS, AND WITCHES

In the previous chapters the discussion has been on the methods of the demonic realm. In this chapter, the focus is on the people who use these evil methods. The primary people involved with these demonic methods are known as psychics, mediums, and witches. These people are everywhere in the media today. There are psychic detective shows, there is a television program entitled "Medium," where the star of the show contacts the dead. There are shows that glorify witches, like the television show "Charmed." There are psychic hotlines and internet websites where you can contact a psychic for help. There are mediums that contact the dead on television for real, like Jonathon Edwards and "Ghost Hunters." Most people have at least been exposed to these types of individuals, but many do not know what they really believe and what they really do.

PSYCHICS

Psychics claim to receive supernatural information that is not from their natural senses. They believe that they are in tune with this world and the spirit-realm, and either pick up this information because they are sensitive to the spirit-realm, or they receive this information from spirit guides, the dead, or other spirit beings. Psychics believe that they can receive information about the past, present, or future. This is called the "6th sense" or "Extra Sensory Perception," and refers to the supernatural sense that they use to gain supernatural information. However, they do believe that this "6th Sense" can manifest through all 5 senses (taste, touch, smell, hear, sight). Although they have different theories as to why psychic abilities occur, they basically agree that they either receive supernatural information through a supernatural gift or it given to them by a supernatural being.

For example, psychometry is the belief that every object emits vibrations. Therefore, a psychic will touch an object and try to discern something about

the owner, from the past present, or future. A person may bring to a psychic an article of clothing from a fiancée and ask a psychic if they can read whether or not the fiancée is having an affair and if he really loves her. The psychic may grab the piece of clothing, rub it in her hands, meditate, and wait to get a vision or sense of the person.

Psychics believe in telepathy, which is being able to read the thoughts of another. Psychics may also be clairvoyant, which means getting a vision of another person about the past, present, or future that is supernatural. Psychic hotlines have psychic counselors that people can call to get supernatural guidance. A person may call a psychic to get direction for his life, to find the love of his life, or to find out if he should buy a new car. Psychics are rapidly taking the place of psychologists and counselors for many people today. Some people become so dependent upon their psychic that they can't make a decision without calling them first.

There are psychic healers that seek to heal the body through psychic means. There are 2 main types of psychic healers: those that use spirit guides and those that do the healing themselves. Those that use spirit-guides are very powerful and very dangerous. The psychic will go into a trance, allow the spirit to enter him, and then perform sometimes radical surgeries. I have seen pictures and films of several psychic healers that cut into the body (brain, spine, eye), with no anesthetic, pull out a foreign mass, pass his hand over the wound, and it would instantly heal. This is all done through the power of the spirit in the psychic's body.

The other type of psychic healer will lay hands on the body and identify energy blocks in the body, where the illness lies, and some can even diagnose what the disease is. They then lay hands on the patient and either ask for the gods or goddesses to help, and meditate and visualize healing for the patient.

Psychics are being used by law enforcement and private detectives to help them solve crimes. For example, if a crime cannot be solved they may bring a psychic in to help. A psychic may go to the scene of the crime to see if they get any feelings, images, visions, or auditory sensations. Psychics believe that everything emits energy and every crime scene still has the energy of the people of the incident. They may touch different articles, like the murder weapon, to see if they can get a vision of the murderer or of what happened.

Psychics believe that you can move objects through mental force, called telekinesis. They also believe in astral projection. Astral projection is the

belief that one can leave the body, and astral travel is the belief that you can travel to distant locations on the earth while out of the body. Psychics believe that you have an exact double of yourself, made up of energy and light, and it can disconnect from the body and go wherever it wants. This body of light is really who you are. In other words, you can will yourself to leave your body and your spirit can travel in unlimited ways.

I know of a man who used to astral travel before he was saved. He stated that he could visit friends in another state, watch what they were doing, return to his body, and call them and tell them what they were doing while he was 1000 miles away. Psychics believe one can communicate with spirits in this condition as well. They believe that there is a silver cord around the foot that is attached to the body. If the cord breaks, they are eternally separated from the body.

Psychics believe in reincarnation and believe that they can see the past lives of people. In addition, they believe that they see auras. They believe that everything emits energy, including humans. This energy, or aura, has different sizes, characteristics, and colors. For example, if a psychic sees a blue aura around you, it means that you are peaceful and loving; red means strength and courage. Psychics also believe in using divination tools, like tarot cards, to help them to receive supernatural information.

Basically, psychics have a very loose theology that may vary from psychic to psychic. Some common beliefs are that they worship and accept all gods and goddesses, they believe in necromancy, they believe in reincarnation, they believe in divination, and they believe in spirit guides.

MEDIUMS

A medium contacts the spirit-realm and allows the spirits to communicate to them and through them. A medium is like a radio, as the radio receives the signals and then broadcasts them to be heard and understood, the medium receives messages from the spirit-realm and communicates them to the living. The medium is in the middle: they make known to the spirits what the humans want, and they communicate to the humans what the spirits are saying (Dow, 1999).

The primary way a medium receives messages is through channeling. Channeling is when a medium goes into a trance and allows a spirit to enter her and speak through her (Buckland defines mediums as those contacting the dead and a channel lets spirit beings that are not human speak through them). This is different than possession. In possession a spirit comes and takes over

permanently in a hostile takeover. In channeling, the person voluntarily and briefly allows the spirit access over her for a set period of time.

There are many levels of channeling. The lightest form is where the channel is in a light trance where the spirit speaks to the medium and the medium repeats the message. In the deeper forms, the spirit invades the body, takes over the senses, and speaks through the person, looks through the eyes of the person, hears and responds to questions, smells, and tastes. The personality of the channel is not present when the spirit is present.

There are different types of spirit-beings that are channeled. They can be spirit-guides, angels, the dead, past lives that the person has lived, evil spirits, gods, or goddesses. These people see the spirit-world as wiling to speak to us and feel no fear in letting foreign spirits enter their bodies.

Mediums also conduct séances to have the spirits of the dead come and speak. The medium takes responsibility to set the atmosphere and lead the group correctly so that the spirit will communicate. They may use table tipping, talking boards, crystal balls, tarot cards, and other divination methods to communicate with spirits. Mediums may be called to a house to contact ghosts, they may be asked to find out if a deceased relative is trapped on the earth or has gone on to the spirit-realm, or they may be asked to discern if there any good or bad spirits in a building or area.

WITCHES

Witchcraft has exploded in popularity in the United States. There are literally hundreds of different types of witches. There are covens everywhere with chat rooms, internet sites, places to shop, and their own lobbying group. A witch can join a coven and be part of a group, or remain solitary and practice whatever they want. There are two main types of witches: those that practice Wicca and those that practice black magic.

Wicca is what many refer to as “white magic.” They believe that you can worship anything you want, and that all goddesses and gods are acceptable (Robbins & Greenaway, 2011). The white witches believe that there is a triune goddess over all, and the goddess created the inferior male god that serves with her. Basically, you can name the goddess and god anything you want. They believe that every witch or coven has their own spirits or gods over them and they must find out who they are themselves. They do not believe in worshipping the devil.

Wiccan's claim to be in tune with nature and believe that all of nature is tied in with the goddess and god. They believe in doing good as their maxim is…"do whatever you want, as long as you harm no one." They believe that they can heal, they believe in reincarnation, and they believe in psychic abilities. Some witches claim to have psychic abilities, but not all psychic's claim to be witches.

Wiccan's believe strongly in magic. Magic is the drawing down of energy from the spirit-realm to accomplish what you want. It is asking for what you want, visualizing what you want, sending it to the universe, and the universe will respond. A witch can either ask the aid of the gods or the spirits around them or simply send it forth and let the energy of the magic or spell do its work. Wiccan's believe that you have to be careful what you ask for, because it will come back to you 3 times over.

A spell is the words or rituals used to release the magic. A spell can be used to protect or to change others and the environment. A spell goes forth from the witch, a spirit grabs on to it, and then travels with it to help the spell come to pass. The spell gives the authority to the spirit to operate (Buckland, 2010). For example, in the book "*Teen Witch*" if a teen gets in trouble and is sent to her room, there is a spell that a teen witch can do to change the minds of the parents (Ravenwolf, 1998). Talismans are objects that are used to draw positive spirits or energies to them, and amulets are objects used to wear, usually to provide protection to the wearer.

There are so many types of magic out there that it is difficult to describe it in a simple and succinct way. There is green magic, sex magic, white magic, herbal magic, folk magic, grey magic, crystal magic, black magic, fairy magic, and so on. Magic can be practiced individually, or in a ceremony or ritual with other people. Magic is believed to be more powerful during different phases of the moon, and "drawing down the moon," refers to a ritual where the act of the ceremony is to draw the goddess into the high priestess of the coven, as the moon represents the goddess. They welcome the goddess to possess them, instruct them, and bless them; many ceremonies of witches revolve around the lunar calendar.

Black magic is an entirely different story. Black magic is a destructive force and is used primarily (though not exclusively) by Satanists. Satan is worshipped and the dark forces and spirits are summoned to be worshipped and to give more power to the coven. The goal of black magic is to control, manipulate, and dominate. Christians and others that get in their way are

directly attacked through cursing, hexing, and spell casting. Those involved with black magic are very self-centered: they cast a spell to get what they want and curse those who keep them from getting what they want (Buckland, 2010; Conway, 2001; Zell-Ravenheart, 2004).

Demons and spirits are summoned through rituals. The object is to sacrifice to the demons for favor and for the return of more power. Demons do communicate and interact with those that practice black magic. There are even reports of demons revealing themselves to have sexual intercourse during human sacrifice-blood rituals. Demons are also invoked to harm others. In one major town in Florida, a group of 70 witch covens were cursing all pastors daily, for their marriages to fall apart and for sickness and death to enter their lives. Ironically, this is one of the few groups that see demons as they really are.

Magic has been around since the beginning of time. In their confrontation with Moses, the Egyptian magicians had real power and could make water turn into blood (Ex.7:22) and could summon frogs to move at their command (Ex.8:7). In the book of Revelation the false prophet will come forth performing miraculous signs such as commanding fire to come down from heaven to the earth (Rev.13:13). There is real power that the enemy has and there are people who are in league with the enemy that will use this power.

Wizards and sorcerers are those that also use magic. Magic, however, is forbidden by the Bible. Deuteronomy 18:10-12 makes this clear…"Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or *sorcery*, interprets omens, *engages in witchcraft, or casts spells*, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead, "(italics mine).

SHAMANS

A brief word on shamans is appropriate here because shamanism is becoming more and more popular today. Even though the shaman has been identified with primitive cultures, there are more and more people seeking to be shaman's today in America. A shaman is like a local witch-doctor or high priest in an area. There are shamans all over the world and they have been around for thousands of years. A shaman helps solve community and personal problems by contacting and consulting the spirits for help. Shamans helped people by healing, giving and interpreting dreams, giving wisdom,

and blessing those that needed help (like warriors) and cursing those that tried to harm the community.

A shaman is similar to a medium in the sense that they spend a lot of time in contact with the spirits. They were the "holy men" of the tribe. The shaman spends much of his time communicating with the spirits and this is done through trances, hallucinogens, singing-chanting-prayer, dancing to music, and drumming or rattling to a rhythm. They are believed to be able to travel a great distance in the spirit and have spirit-guides as helpers.

The shaman uses the forces of nature around him to help in his magic. He may have magical objects that help increase his power from the local area and he may seek to draw from the power of animals in times of need, as the spirit animals are there to help him; like receiving intelligence from a fox, or keen eyesight from an eagle. The shamans are believed to have great magical powers, especially the power to do miracles and to heal.

The community leans on the spirituality of the shaman. The shaman, however, can turn evil and begin to manipulate the community to meet his own needs. He may threaten to curse people unto death if they don't do what he says. He may accept money to curse people. For instance a person may go to a shaman and ask him to curse a neighbor, and the shaman agrees to do this for money. The neighbor hears about this and races to the shaman to have the curse taken away, and asks the neighbor to be cursed instead. The shaman agrees, for money of course. This person hears about this and goes to the shaman, and it goes on and on.

The people believe that the local shaman is the most powerful. In many cases the first person that a missionary has to face in a power confrontation is the local shaman. The shamans see Christianity as a threat and will summon spirits to fight the missionary, will perform miracles, and send animals against the missionary.

GOD'S VIEW

First of all, I believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are still working in the Church and the God still communicates to His people, heals His people, and performs for and through His people. God is alive and still in the miracle business. In 1 Corinthians 1:7 it states…"Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed." Since Jesus has not come yet, the gifts are still here.

The manifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-

11. The 3 gifts of revelation are the word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discernment of spirits. The word of knowledge is supernatural information, given by God that tells you something about the past or the present. Jesus gives us an example of this in John 1:47-48…"When Jesus saw Nathaniel approaching, He said of him, 'Here is a true Israelite in whom there is nothing false.' 'How do you know me?' Nathaniel asked. Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.'" Jesus had a vision and saw him, a long time before He actually met Philip personally.

The word of wisdom is supernatural revelation about the future, given by God. An example is in Acts 11, where the prophet Agabus gave a word that there would be a severe famine that would affect the entire Roman Empire (v.27-30). The gift of discernment of spirits is being able to look at a person or situation, and through this gift be able to determine if the spirit behind the action is of the Holy Spirit, a human spirit, or a demonic spirit. An example of this gift is in 2 Kings 6:16-17…"'Don't be afraid,' the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' And Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

In each of these gifts, God is the One who sends this information. God provides the revelation and the people received it. For psychics, they believe that they receive supernatural information because they were either born with these abilities, it was given by whatever gods they serve, or they are given this revelation by the gods as they petition them. There are no other gods but God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So, all information given to psychics are from demonic spirits.

Usually, every psychic has a familiar spirit that sits on her shoulder and gives the information to her. By consulting other gods, consulting the dead, and practicing divination, the psychic has given authority to the enemy to interact in her life freely, with no resistance. The familiar spirit will give visions, whisper advice, and consult other spirits in order to provide information about the client coming in for psychic counseling. Just because a psychic may help you and gives you good advice, does not mean that it comes from God. This also goes for mediums, shamans, and witches. If the enemy can help you once in order to snare you and keep you coming back, it will.

The 3 power gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, are the gifts of healing, the gift of miraculous powers, and the gift of faith. The gift of healings is plural and refers to the many types healing as in physical healing, emotional healing, deliverance, and spiritual healing. The gift of miraculous powers refers to God intervening in a situation with power that supercedes the regular laws of nature to effect a miraculous change. The gift of faith is God dropping supernatural faith into you in order to do something extraordinary.

But, witches, psychics, and shamans claim that they heal and have miraculous powers, like levitating, and moving objects without touching them. Do they really have this power? The answer is "yes," but this power is given by demonic powers. Witches that pray for the goddess to enter them during the drawing down the moon ceremony and then perform a miracle receive their power from a demon, not a goddess. Again, God cannot inhabit something He forbids. He cannot be involved in goddess worship; but, evil spirits can. These people give total authority for evil to possess and empower them because they are in sin. Demons will give power to those who desire it as long as it is used to meet evil purposes.

Magic is power and there is no such thing as good magic. All supernatural power, that is not from God, and is not sanctioned by God, is from the evil one. White magic and Wicca, sound good, as they are good witches casting good spells. But how can power, derived from false gods/goddesses be good? It cannot be good, because the origin of all magic is satan.

The final 3 gifts are the vocal gifts, and these are prophecy, speaking in tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. Basically, the Holy Spirit gives words for us to speak forth. The difference in the gifts is that prophecy is in a known language and speaking in tongues is in an unknown language. The gift of interpretation of tongues gives the interpretation of tongues in a known language.

Mediums, witches, shamans, and psychics get messages from dead people, guardian spirits, gods, goddesses, and ghosts; which are all demons. The spirit-world wants to speak and is looking for anyone to listen. They will sound friendly, act benevolent, give advice, and appear concerned. Some will even act like they need help in order to emotionally draw people in. For example, a ghost may act like a person suffering because they can't get to the next level and needs help. These are all designed to trap the listener into believing something false, while disguising their true identity.

These evil spirits are waiting for someone to open up the door and they will come through. We see this in séances, electronic voice recognition, ouija boards, tarot card readings, and so on. The spirit-world is given an open invitation to come forth and they will. With this invitation is the right to come forth (authority), and with this right they can exercise their might (power). All invitations for spirits to speak, which are not sanctioned by God, allow evil to break through into the lives of those giving the open invitation. And once they come in, they stay until they are either driven out by the power of God, or they physically or spiritually destroy the one that invited them in.

A FINAL WORD

This book has focused on the ways of satan: his origin, his kingdom, his methods, and his deceptions. There are so many areas in life where it appears that the enemy is winning. However, this book was not written to cause fear. It was written to give knowledge of the ways of the enemy. When we know and understand satan's ways we can better fight against them. We can also resist sin and live a better, holy life when we know the deception of the enemy. For example, many Christians go to psychics because they believe they are helpful and do not understand that they are subtly giving authority for demons to be loosed into their lives.

This book was written to increase the confidence and faith of the believer. We have nothing to fear because Jesus said…"And I will tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven," (Matthew 16:18-19). No matter what happens, the church will win and satan will not overcome the church. Furthermore, there is not Scripture that states that we run from the enemy or be afraid of the enemy.

The Bible states we have authority over the enemy by the fact that we have the power to cast out demons…"And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons," (Mark 16:17). In addition we have the power to back up the authority given to us in 2 Cor.10:4…"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds," and "God has not given us

a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and a sound mind," (2 Tim.1:7).

We have tremendous power as a believer. When we receive the power of the Holy Spirit, we have the greatest power of the universe living within us and satan is no match for this power. For example, Jesus told the disciples…"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father," (John 14:12). This power includes power over the enemy as Jesus said in Luke 10:19…"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."

As humans we have no power over the enemy as it all comes from the Name of Jesus. Demons would love to tear us apart at a moments notice, but they can't because God won't let them. The Name of Jesus is what they are afraid of, not us. Even if we have this great standing, we must be careful in how we deal with the kingdom of darkness. Scripture gives us some guidelines in how to address the devil and his underlings:

- "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," (James 4:7).

- "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour," (1 Peter 5:8).

- "Resist him, standing firm in the faith," (1 Peter 5:9).

- Walk in your authority (Luke 10:19; Luke 22:29).

- Do not become arrogant when dealing with the devil (Jude 9).

- Do not fear the enemy (Psalm 34:4; 2 Tim.1:7; 1 John 4:18).

- Do not let anger go on (Eph.4:27).

- Avoid sin (1 John 3:8).

- Do everything in love (Luke 6:27; John 15:12; 1 John 3:14)

We all have a ministry before the Lord, but all are called to fight the enemy. There is a battle raging in the heavenlies with the kingdom of light against the kingdom of darkness. If we all pull together, fight the good fight, and push back the kingdom of darkness, then the kingdom of light will advance and there will be more salvations, miracles, healings, and deliverances for our nation, our communities, our churches, and our families…"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible," (Matthew 19:26).

GOD BLESS.

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